

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3408
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009
NATURAL RESOURCES ON SUSTAINABLE BASIS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is using the natural resources on a sustainable basis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for use of natural resources on a sustainable basis?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (c) Sustainable use of natural resources has been integrated into national decision making through various policy statements such as National Forest Policy, National Wildlife Action Plan, National Biodiversity Action Plan, National Environment Policy; legislative measures such as Environment (Protection) Act, Wildlife (Protection) Act, Biological Diversity Act; and programmes such as Joint Forest Management and afforestation.

Sustainable utilization underscored in these policies, plans and programmes recognizes the inter-dependence of local communities on natural resources, and emphasizes the need to draw upon the existing resources keeping long-term conservation in view.

In accordance with appreciation of the needs and local situations, pressure from natural resources is diverted interalia; by bringing additional areas under green cover to satisfy local demands, encouraging environment-friendly substitutes, promoting energy efficient devices, creating awareness, restoration of degraded areas through eco-restoration programmes involving local people, and by joint forest management programmes aimed at regenerating and sustainably using forest resources through involvement of local communities.

To adopt economically effective and socially viable incentives for sustainable use of natural resources, strategies such as the use of wood substitutes, alternative energy sources, water harvesting, and pollution abatement measures are implemented.