

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:103  
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2011  
IMPROVEMENT IN FOREST MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a large part of open forest remains degraded and reinforces the need for a vastly improved management system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. According to State Forest Report, 2009, of the total forest cover in the country 690,899 sq. km, 288,277 sq. km (41 %) is open forest. In Andhra Pradesh, out of total forest cover 45,102 sq.km, 19,525 sq.km is open forest cover , which is around 43%.It is true that a large part of open forests are degraded and there is a need to improve their quality through better management and afforestation. Efforts are being made for improving the quality of open forest cover under Joint Forest Management with the active participation of local people, which has shown good results. At present, 1,06,482 JFMCs are actively working for the protection and management of forests.