

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:109  
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2011  
PROTECTION OF FOREST RESOURCES  
Danve Shri Raosaheb Patil

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to protect most valuable and vulnerable forest resources of the country from destruction;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (c) The protection of forest areas is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State /Union Territory Governments under the relevant provisions of various Central/State Acts, Rules, Regulation etc. However, this Ministry provides financial assistance to the State Forest Departments under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Intensification of Forest Management' to strengthen their forest protection machinery by way of infrastructure development, use of modern technology, improved mobility by way of deployment of new field vehicles improved communication and providing arms ammunition to the front-line forestry force. This infrastructural support provided to all State/UT Governments help them in creation of boundary pillars, demarcation of forest areas and boundary clearances which are keys in inhibiting forest encroachment. Apart from this improved mobility and better communication equipment are provided to the forest officials/ staff for checking forest encroachment more effectively. The Details of the funds released to protect most valuable forest resources of country from destruction is at Annexure. The Government has started practice of Joint Forest Management in which forest are being protected by active involvement of people. This practice of involvement of local people has given good results. At present, 1,06,482 JFMCs are actively working for protection and management of forests.