

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:190

ANSWERED ON:01.08.2011

FOREST COVER

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the rapid decline in the forest cover density in the country including North-East Region;
- (b) if so, the details of forest cover in various States and Union-Territories;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to launch satellites to monitor green cover in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to plant more teak trees in certain States where the weather is more conducive for their survival;
- (f) if so, the States/Union-Territories identified for the purpose; and
- (g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the density of forest cover in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) There is no rapid decline in the forest cover density in the country including North-East Region. The change of forest cover density, reported in previous two State of Forest Reports (SFRs) 2005 and 2009, for the North-East Region is tabulated below:

(Area in km<sup>2</sup>)

Category of Forest Cover	SFR 2005	ISFR 2009	Change
Very Dense Forest (Crown cover <70%)	24873	24949	+76
Moderately Dense Forest (CC 40-70%)	74606	74007	-599
Open Forest (CC 10-40%)	70346	71467	+1121
Total Forest Cover	169825	170423	+598

There is a positive change of 598 km<sup>2</sup> in total forest cover in terms of forest cover density.

(b) The details of Forest Cover in various States and UTs, as per State of Forest Report, 2009 is given in Annexure.

(c) & (d) There is no proposal to launch satellite to monitor green cover in the country.

(e) & (g) The Ministry of Environment & Forests is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country. The scheme is implemented through a decentralized mechanism of State Forest Department Agency (SFDA) at State level, Forest Department Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level. The choice of species to be planted under NAP Scheme is decided by JFMCs, based on local preferences, suitability of land and agroclimatic conditions. Seven models of Afforestation have been recognized under the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and teak could be one of the species.

Besides NAP, the following steps have been taken to promote afforestation/tree planting in the country:

# Two new Eco-Task Force (ETF) Battalions have been operationalised by the Ministry for eco-restoration of degraded areas in Assam, in addition to supporting the existing four ETF battalions in the country. An amount of Rs. 31.91 Crores has been released during the 2010-11.

# XIIIth Finance Commission has recommended Rs. 5000 crore for five years starting from 2010-11 for activities including conservation and development of forests.

# Additional Central assistance of Rs. 81.66 Crores has been released to the States during 2009-10 for Restoration and Regeneration of Forest Cover.

# Tree planting is also an approved activity under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.