

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4270  
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2011  
EVALUATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Kataria Shri Lal Chand;Singh Shri Uday Pratap

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

- (a) whether the Government has introduced any important programme for evaluation of their natural resources and bio-diversity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to assess the adverse effect on the natural resources and bio-diversity of the country in the name of development; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and percentage of total forest reserve in the country out of the total forest reserve in the world?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. In order to assess the feasibility of developing sector-wise uniform methodology for Natural Resource Accounting (NRA), the Central Statistical Organization, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation commissioned eight studies on NRA by various specialised institutes covering the sectors of land and forests, air, water and mining in eight States.

(c) The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) has been made mandatory for various Projects and activities under EIA Notification, 2006. The appraisal of projects is undertaken based on EIA/Environmental Management Plan (EMP) reports which cover the impacts of the projects and necessary safeguard measures.

(d) India's forest cover is 69.09 million ha as per India State of Forest Report 2009. India's Forest cover is 1.713% of the World's Forest as per Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2010 report published by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).