

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5095  
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2011  
LAND UNDER FOREST COVER  
Manjhi Shri Hari

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

- (a) whether the area under forests has been decreasing every year due to urbanization and industrialization in different States of the country;
- (b) if so, the extent of forest land in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has chalked out any schemes to increase land under forest cover; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved under the schemes, State-wise?

**Answer**

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

- (a) No, Sir. Forests have not decreased due to urbanization and industrialization in various States of the country. There is a net increase of 728 sq. km forest cover in the country as per India State of Forest Report 2009.
- (b) The details of forest cover in various States and UTs, as per State of Forest Report, 2009 is given in Annexure I.
- (c)&(d) 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 Development Agency (SFDA) at State level, Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level. As on 31.03.2011, 800 FDA projects have been approved in 28 States in the country to treat an area of 17.43 lakh ha. since inception of the scheme in 2002. The details of the area approved for afforestation during the last three years is given in Annexure – II.