

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1145

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2011

CHECK ON DEFORESTATION

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

- (a) the details of the forest area as on date in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Forest Survey of India (FSI) publish state of Forest Report in the country;
- (c) if so, the details alongwith the last report published and the salient features thereof;
- (d) whether the externally aided projects have not been able to protect the declining trend of forest cover in the country;
- (e) if so, the details of forest cover declined during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to increase the density of forests in the country and the funds allocated and achievements made for this purpose in the current Five Year Plan, State-wise?

**Answer**

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

- (a) The details of forest cover state wise as per India State of Forest Report, 2009 is given in Annexure I.
- (b) & (c) Yes, Sir. The Forest Survey of India has published the latest State of Forest Report in 2009 known as India State of Forest Report, 2009. The salient features of the above report are as follows:-
  - # Forest & tree cover of the country as per this assessment is 78.37 million ha in 2007, which is 23.84% of the geographical area and include 2.82% tree cover. This becomes 25.25%, if the areas above tree line i.e. 4,000m are excluded from the total geographical area.
  - # The net increase in the forest cover between current and previous assessment (2 year data interval) is 0.18 million ha (0.23%)
  - # The decadal increase, i.e., the increase in the forest cover between 1997 and 2007 is 3.13 million ha (4.75%)
  - # The growing stock of India's forests and trees outside forests is estimated as 6,098 million m<sup>3</sup> in 2007.
  - # The increase in forest cover is particularly significant in hill and tribal districts, where the forest cover has increased by 66,300 ha and 69,000 ha respectively compared with the previous assessment. Mangrove cover in India has increased by 5,800 ha in the same period.
  - # The seven north eastern States of India have nearly one fourth of the country's forest cover. The region has gained 59,800 ha of forest cover as compared to the previous assessment of 2005.
- (d) As per India State of Forest Report 2009 the forest and tree cover has increased by 0.18 million ha. Implementation of externally aided project has been one of the contributing factor in the increase of forest cover in the country.
- (e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.
- (f) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country. The scheme is being 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. The details of funds released and area approved during the current five year plan are given in Annexure II.