

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2898

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2011

INCREASE IN FORESTS COVER

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

- (a) the total area of national forest cover at present in the country alongwith the details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) whether the said national forest cover has been declining in several States in the country;
- (c) if so, the area of decline in the forest cover annually alongwith the details thereof State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken / being taken by the Government to increase the forest cover and to maintain ecological imbalance in the country?

Answer

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

- (a) According to the India State of Forest Report 2009, based upon the biennial assessment by Forest Survey of India, the total forest cover of the country is 690,899 sq. km. The details of forest cover state-wise is given in Annexure I.
- (b) The total forest cover in the country has increased by 728 km² as compared to the last assessment of forest cover in 2005. However, there is decline in forest cover in some States such as Nagaland, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Assam and Chhattisgarh.
- (c) As per India State of Forest Report 2009, there is net decrease in forest cover in the State of Nagaland (201 km²), Andhra Pradesh (129 km²), Arunachal Pradesh (119 km²), Tripura (100 km²), Assam (66 km²) and Chhattisgarh (59 km²).
- (d) 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. From inception till March, 2011 an amount of Rs. 2547.36 crores has been released for afforestation works over an area of 1.74 million ha. across the country. During 11th Plan (2007-08 to 2010-11), an amount of Rs. 1366.72 crores has been released to the states under NAP for afforestation. During 2011-12, an amount of Rs. 104.89 crores has been released for taking up afforestation works till 31st October, 2011.