

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4016  
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2011  
ALLOCATION OF FUNDS IN NE REGIONS  
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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the forest coverage in the North-East(NE) Regions has increased over the years;
- (b) if so, the increased growth rate during the last three years and the current
- (c) year alongwith the proportion of forest cover in the NE to the total geographical areas of the country;
- (d) the contribution of forestry in the NE region to the overall GDP in the country during the last three years and the current year; and
- (e) the purpose of allocations and the norms and criteria for the expenditures of the allocated funds for the forestry in the NE regions?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Sir. According to the India State of Forest Report 2009, based on the biennial assessment by Forest Survey of India, the total forest cover of North East Region (7 States) has increased between 2005 and 2007.

(b) The forest cover in North East (NE) Region has increased from 169825 km<sup>2</sup> in 2005 to 170423 km<sup>2</sup> in 2007 based on which the rate of increase is 299 km<sup>2</sup> per year for the period. The proportion of forest cover in North East to total geographical area of the country is 0.051 (5.17%).

(c) The contribution of forestry sector in the country including North Eastern Region is about 1.8 % of the GDP.

(d) Funds are allotted to States and UTs for afforestation, forest protection, survey and demarcation of forest land, forest fire control, infrastructure development for forestry personnel, improving communications, modernising forestry administration, training and capacity building etc.

Schemes have their norms for funding, monitoring and reporting. Funds are specially earmarked for NE region under various schemes of this ministry. States/ UTs have to submit utilization certificates after expenditure as per the scheme on the permitted activities.