

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4119

ANSWERED ON:19.12.2011

PLANTATION OF TREES

Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram ;Mithlesh Shri ;Pratap Narayanrao Shri Sonawane;Tudu Shri Laxman

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

- (a) whether excessive cutting of trees and forests in the name of economic development is having adverse impact on environment in the country including Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard and the number of complaints received in the country including Delhi and the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has proposed or proposes to launch any plan for compulsory tree plantation against cutting of trees in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the number of trees planted under the said scheme in Delhi, Location- wise, till date; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) Diversion of forest land and cutting of trees available thereon for non-forest purposes, including for implementation of economic development projects, requires prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. To mitigate adverse impacts of the diversion of forest land and cutting of trees on environment, Central Government while according approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 stipulates a condition that the State/ UT Government shall raise compensatory afforestation on the non-forest land equal in extent to the forest land diverted for non-forest purposes from the funds realised from the concerned user agency. The Central Government while according approvals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 also stipulates that the non-forest land identified for creation of compensatory afforestation shall be transferred and mutated in favour of the State/ UT Forest Department and be notified as Reserved Forest or Protected Forest under the Indian Forest Act, 1927. In case of the projects belonging to Central Government or Central Government Undertakings compensatory afforestation may be raised on the degraded forest land, double in extent to the forest land required to be diverted for non-forest purposes. In case of non-availability of appropriate non-forest land for creation of compensatory afforestation, duly certified by the Chief Secretary of the State/ UT concerned, for the projects other than those belonging to Central Government or Central Government Undertakings also compensatory afforestation may be raised on degraded forest land double in extent to the forest land required to be diverted for non-forestry purposes. In case a project involves diversion of forest land up to one hectare, plantation of ten times the number of trees likely to be felled are required to be carried out by way of compensatory afforestation. As per the information received from the Government of NCT of Delhi, as on 31st October 2011, total 1,03,500 plants of 46 species indigenous to ridge have been planted by South Forest Division in Satbari, Sahurpur and Asola villages.