

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:72

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012

STATE OF FOREST REPORT

Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash; Ram Shri Purnmasi

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

- (a) whether the latest 'State of Forest' Report has found that India recorded a net loss of 367 square kilometre of forests between 2009 and 2011;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the Report and follow-up action taken thereon;
- (c) whether various areas, including Khammam district in Andhra Pradesh lost a large tract of forest during the period 2009-11;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the further measures taken for afforestation in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 72 by Shri Purnmasi Ram: Shri Anand Prakash Paranjpe due for reply on 19.03.2012

(a) Yes, Sir. As per the latest 'India State of Forest Report 2011' (ISFR 2011), the forest cover of the country has declined by 367 square kilometre with respect to previous assessment as given in India State of Forest Report, 2009.

(b) The salient features of the India State of Forest Report are as follows:-

# Forest and tree cover of the country is 78.29 million hectare, which is 23.81% of the geographical area. This includes 2.76% of tree cover.

# The forest and tree cover would work out to 25.22% after exclusion of 183135 square kilometre above the altitude 4000 m from the total geographical area of the country as these areas do not support tree growth.

# In the hill and tribal districts of the country, a decrease in forest cover of 548 square kilometre and 679 square kilometre respectively has been reported as compared to the previous assessment.

# The north eastern States of the India account for one-fourth of the country's forest cover. There is a net decline of 549 square kilometre in forest cover as compared to the previous assessment.

# Mangrove cover has increased by 23.34 square kilometre during the same period.

# The total growing stock of India's forest and tree outside forests is estimated as 6047.15 million cum which comprises 4498.73 million cum inside the forests and 1548.42 million cum outside the forests.

# The total bamboo bearing area in the country is estimated to be 13.96 million hectare.

# The total carbon stock in the country's forests is estimated to be 6663 million tonnes.

(c) As per India State of Forest Report 2011, 13 States / UTs have shown decrease in forest cover to the extent of 867 square kilometre in the States such as Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram etc. The Khammam district in Andhra Pradesh has also lost 182 square kilometre forest cover between October, 2006 and March, 2009.

(d) The names of States where there is decline in forest cover along with the reasons for decline in forest cover is given in Annexure I.

(e) The following initiatives have been taken by the Government to expand forest and tree cover in the country:

(i) The Ministry of Environment and 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 levels. As on 31-10-2011, 800 FDA projects have been approved in 28 States in the country to treat an area of 18.32 lakh hectares since inception of the Scheme in 2002.

(ii) The Ministry release funds under the Intensification of Forest Management Scheme (IFFMS), for strengthening of forest protection such as infrastructure, fire protection, demarcation of forest boundaries, construction of facilities for frontline staff and communication which has contributed towards increase in the forest cover.

(iii) Under the National Action Plan on Climate Change announced by the Central Government, a National Mission for a 'Green India' has been mooted with major objectives to increase forests/tree cover on 5 mha of forest/non forest lands and also to improve the quality of the forest cover on another 5 mha.

(iv) Under the award of 13th Finance Commission, a grant of Rs.5000 crores has been allocated as "Forest Grants" to the states on the basis of their forest cover in the State in relation to the national average. It has been further weighted by the quality of the forests in each state as measured by density.

(v) Afforestation activities are undertaken under various External Aided Projects by Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan.