

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:713

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012

NORMS FOR FOREST COVER

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

(a) whether the Government has fixed minimum limit for forest coverage of land in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken / being taken by the Government to bring the forest cover up to the limit fixed especially in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) the details of trees felled during the last three years and the current year alongwith the details of trees planted during the said period in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Forest Policy, 1988 has prescribed the national goal to have a minimum of 1/3rd of the total Geographical area of the country under forest and tree cover. In the hilly and mountainous regions, the aim is to maintain 2/3rd of the area under forest and tree cover.

The following initiatives have been taken by the Government to expand forest and tree cover in the country including Madhya Pradesh:

(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 (IIFMS), 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 in which quality to improve the degraded forests along with afforestation are major objectives.

(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 12 States.

(c) The details of felling of trees and plantations in the country for three years are given in Annexure I and Annexure II respectively.