

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4004
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2012
DEFORESTATION OF FORESTS
Singh Shri Radha Mohan

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

- (a) whether it has been stated in the United Nations report that a study has been conducted according to which every year about 50 lakh hectares of forests are being cut in the world;
- (b) if so, the details of measures being adopted by the Government to check deforestation of forests in the country; and
- (c) the success achieved as a result thereof?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Protection of forests is the responsibility of State Governments. Following measures are being adopted by State Governments to check deforestation in the country:

- (i) Strict enforcement of law to check illicit felling of trees
- (ii) Check Nakas have been installed in every district to control the illegal movement of timber.
- (iii) Regular Patrolling of forests by frontline staff and monitoring by Senior forest officers.
- (iv) Involvement of Community in forest protection by formation of Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs). At present, there are 1, 05,000 JFMCs are supporting forest officials to control deforestation.
- (v) Refresher courses are held to update the knowledge of forest officials to tackle the problem. Awareness campaigns are held to sensitize the general public to forest conservation and check deforestation.

(c) Forest Cover of the Country has stabilized despite heavy population and cattle pressure.