

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6072
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2012
POLICY FOR AFFORESTATION SCHEMES
Biswal Shri Hemanand

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

- (a) whether the Government has any policy for afforestation schemes along the both sides of National Highways in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has kept records of the total numbers of trees being felled during construction projects for highways in the country;
- (d) if so, the details of the total number of trees being cut during the last three years, State-wise; 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) and (b) The Central Government while according approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land required for construction/ upgradation of road projects, including the National Highways projects, stipulates a condition that strip plantation shall be raised on sides and central verge of the road.
- (c) to (e) State-wise details of the total number of trees felled/planted during the construction projects for highways in the country are generally not compiled at the Central Government level and such details are maintained at the level of concerned State/Union Territory Governments.