

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6124

ANSWERED ON:14.05.2012

STUDY ON DEFORESTATION

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

- (a) whether a team of forestry researchers at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore has conducted study on deforestation in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the said study contradicts Forest Survey of India (FSI)'s forest cover figures in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken / being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) A team of scientists namely from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore have published a paper on "Deforestation and forest degradation in India-implications for REDD+" in Current Science, volume 102 No. 8,25 April, 2012. This paper discusses a methodology to work out deforestation/degradation of forests at regional (sub national) and District level making use of time series data of Forest Survey of India (FSI).

(c) There is no contradiction in FSI's data on forest cover with that of the claim made in the said paper. FSI works out the net loss/gain in forest cover at the country level. The India State of Forest Report of FSI also furnishes the figures at State/District levels and the loss and gain therein are shown in the change matrix.

(d)&(e) Does not arise.