

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7239

ANSWERED ON:21.05.2012

DECREASE IN AREA OF TEAKWOOD FOREST

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

(a) the total area of teakwood forest in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the forest area is decreasing in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the teakwood plantations and provision of incentives to teakwood growers in the country?

Answer

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

(a) The total area estimated at present under teakwood forest is about 1.693 million ha. The detail of teak plantation State-wise in India is at Annexure.

(b)&(c) There is no report regarding decrease in forest area under teak plantation in the country.

(d) The following initiatives have been taken by the Government to expand forest and tree cover in the country including teakwood forest depending upon edaphic and climatic factors:

(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 31.03.2012, 800 FDA projects have been approved in 28 States in the country to treat an area of 18.86 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 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.