

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:588  
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2012  
CONSERVATION OF MANGROVES  
Antony Shri Anto

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

- (a) the details of estimated total areas of mangroves in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has noticed that decreasing area of mangroves in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for conservation of mangroves;
- (e) whether the Government has given any financial assistance to the States; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the assistance given to the States during the last three years, State-wise?

**Answer**

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

(a) According to Forest Survey of India (FSI) Report titled 'India State of Forest Report (2011)', the mangrove cover in the country is 4,662.56 km<sup>2</sup>, which is 0.14 percent of the country's total geographical area. The table below presents State/UT-wise status of the mangrove cover as estimated in the aforesaid 2011 assessment and also the change with respect to previous assessment.

(a) No, Sir. According to the above mentioned FSI Report (2011), there has been a net increase of 23.56 km<sup>2</sup> in the mangrove cover of the country compared with 2009 assessment is given annexure.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) & (e) The Government seeks to sustain and augment mangroves in the country by both regulatory and promotional measures. Under the regulatory measures, the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification 2011 under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 recognizes the mangrove areas as ecologically sensitive and categorizes them as CRZ-I which implies that these areas are accorded due protection. Destruction of mangroves for activities other than those specified in the Notification is prohibited and attracts punitive action under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Under the promotional measures, the Ministry has a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Conservation and Management of Mangroves in the country. On a nation-wide basis, 38 sites have been identified as appropriate for planting of mangroves and their conservation and management. Under the Scheme for Conservation and Management of Mangroves, 100% central assistance is extended to Coastal States/ Union Territories, who so request, for implementation of their approved Management Action Plans which comprise components such as Survey and Demarcation, Afforestation and Restoration of Mangroves, Alternate and Supplementary Livelihoods, Protection Measures and Education and Awareness.

(f) A table depicting Coastal State-wise financial assistance for conservation and management of mangroves during the last three years is given below annexure.