

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:618
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2012
INCREASE IN FOREST COVER
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of forest cover in the North-Eastern States, State-wise and National average-wise thereof;
- (b) whether the forest cover in the North-Eastern region have registered any increase since 2000;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the contribution of forestry sector in the region overall GDP of the country during the last three years;
- (e) the budgetary allocation and expenditure for protection and conservation of forests and wildlife in the North-Eastern region during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and
- (f) the objectives of the said allocation alongwith the norms and criteria for undertaking the said expenditure?

Answer

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

- (a) The total forest cover in the North Eastern region is 173,219 Km² which is 66.07% of its geographical area in comparison to the National forest cover of 21.05%. The details of forest cover in North Eastern States, State-wise is given in Annexure I.
- (b) & (c) Yes, Sir. The overall increase in forest cover in the North Eastern States is 3,853Km² as per the details in State of Forest Report 2001 and India State of Forest Report 2011. The details of change in forest cover State-wise is given in Annexure II.
- (d) The contribution of forestry sector to the GDP of the country is about 1% however in the North Eastern States as the States are more dependent on the forest resources the contribution of the forestry sector to the GDP of the North Eastern States is much higher to the tune of 10-15%.
- (e) The details of total budgetary allocation and expenditure for protection and conservation of forests and wildlife in the North Eastern region during the Eleventh Five Year Plan is given in Annexure III.
- (f) The objective of the allocation was to protect and conserve the forest and wildlife in North Eastern region. The criteria for undertaking the expenditure was specific to established norms for the scheme from which the allocation is made under CSS and Plan Schemes.