

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:91
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009
EXPANSION OF FOREST COVER
Semmalai Shri S. ;Sharma Shri Jagdish

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

- (a) whether deforestation has taken place in the country over the years;
- (b) if so, the States where denudation of forests has taken place during each of the last three years and the current year alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether deforestation caused by the location of majority of power plants in forest areas is responsible for 25% of India's greenhouse gas emission;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details outlining the targets set and the results achieved with regard to afforestation during the last three years and the current year, year-wise; and
- (f) the funds provided by the Union Government to States under afforestation programme during the said period, year-wise, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) to (f) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 91 by Shri Jagdish Sharma: Shri S Semmalai: due for reply on 25.11.2009.

(a) & (b) No, Sir. There are no such reports of any large scale of deforestation in the country over the years. The monitoring of deforestation is done by using the State of Forests Report published by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun. The State of Forests Report, 2005(SFR, 2005) is the latest report available with the Ministry regarding forest cover. As per the SFR 2001, 2003 and 2005, the forest cover has more or less stabilized in the country. The forest cover as per these SFR's is given below:

Assessment Year	2001	2003	2005
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Forest Cover in Km ²	653,898	677,816	677,088
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Hence, the forest cover has increased by 23,919 km² between 2001 and 2003 SFR and marginally decreased by 728 km² between 2003 and 2005 SFR. The States where reduction in the forests cover has been reported between SFR 2003 & 2005 alongwith the reasons are given at Annexure -I.

(c) & (d) During the last five years between January, 2005 to 18.11.2009, the Ministry has approved 81 proposals for diversion of 2822 hectare of forest land for establishment of power plants which is very meager in comparison to total forest area of 769,626 km² in the country. Hence, the diversion of only 0.004% of the forest area in the last five years for power plants is not expected to have any significant impact on India's green house gas emissions.

(e) & (f) The Ministry of Environment & Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country. The State wise details of fund released and area covered during last three years and current Financial Year (2006-07 to 2008-09 and 2009-10 upto 30/10/2009) are given in Annexure-II.