

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1115

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009

FOREST POLICY,1988

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

- (a) the aim and objectives under Forest Policy, 1988;
- (b) whether the Government has not achieved desired result under the policy;
- (c) if so, whether the Government proposes to review this policy; and
- (d) the outcome thereof?

Answer

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

(a)The principal aim of National Forest Policy, 1988 is to ensure environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance including atmospheric equilibrium which are vital for sustenance of all lifeforms, human, animal and plant.The derivation of direct economic benefit must be subordinate to this principal aim.

The basic objectives of the Forest Policy 1988 are given at Annexure-I

(b) Since, inception of the Forest Policy 1988 the forest and tree cover in the country has increased from 19.7 % of geographical area (State Forest Report, 1987) to 23.4 % of the geographical area (State Forest Report, 2005) and is indicative of the facts that the forest policy prescriptions are helping gradually towards achieving environmental stability and maintenance of the ecological balance. The major achievement of National Forest Policy, 1988, inter alia, are as follows:

- # Increase in the forest and tree cover.
- # Involvement of local communities in the protection, conservation and management of forests through Joint Forest Management Programme.
- # Meeting the requirement of fuel wood, fodder minor forest produce and small timber of the rural and tribal populations.
- # Conservation of Biological Diversity and Genetic Resources of the country through ex-situ and in-situ conservation measures.
- # Significant contribution in maintenance of environment and ecological stability in the country.

(c)&(d) No,Sir.There is no proposal presently to review the National Forest Policy, 1988 since the National Forest Commission in its report published in 2006 has recommended that there is no need to change the National Forest Policy,1988.

ANNEXURE-I

Annexure referred in para(a) of the statement in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1115 by SHRI BHISMA SHANKER ALIAS KUSHAL TIWARI & SHRI BASORI SINGH MASRAM DUE FOR ANSWER ON 25.11.2009 REGARDING "FOREST POLICY, 1988".

The basic objectives that should govern the National Forest Policy- are the following:

- # Maintenance of environmental stability through preservation and, where necessary, restoration of the ecological balance that has been adversely disturbed by serous depletion of the forests of the country.
- # Conserving the natural heritage of the country by preserving the remaining natural forests with the vast variety of flora and fauna, which represent the remarkable biological diversity and genetic resources of the country.
- # Checking soil erosion and denudation in the catchment areas of rivers, lakes, reservoirs in the "interest of soil and water conservation, for mitigating floods and droughts and for the retardation of siltation of reservoirs.
- # Checking the extension of sand-dunes in the desert areas of Rajasthan and along the coastal tracts.
- # Increasing substantially the forest/tree cover in the country through massive afforestation and social forestry programmes,especially on all denuded, degraded and unproductive lands.
- # Meeting the requirements of fuel-wood,fodder,minor forest produce and small timber of the rural and tribal populations.
- # Increasing the productivity of forests to meet essential national needs.
- # Encouraging efficient utilisation of forest produce and maximising substitution of wood.
- # Creating a massive people's movement with the involvement of women, for achieving these objectives and to minimise pressure on existing forests.

