

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3479  
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2012  
PROTECTION TO MANGROVE FORESTS  
Dutt Smt. Priya Sunil

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any demand to preserve the natural mangrove plantations on the West Coast of the country including Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has sent any team to find out the encroachments and destruction of mangrove forests in the country;
- (d) if so, the details of their findings, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for the protection and eviction of land grabbers?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Conservation and Management of Mangroves, 100% central assistance is extended to Coastal States/UTs, who so request, for implementation of their approved Management Action Plans which comprise components such as Survey and Demarcation, Afforestation & Restoration of Mangroves, Alternate and Supplementary Livelihoods, Protection Measures, and Education & Awareness etc. During the last three years, the Ministry has not received any Management Action Plan for conservation and management of mangroves from the State Government of Maharashtra. Details of the funds released to the Coastal States/UTs during the last three years are given below:

(Rs. in Lakh)

S. No.	Name of States/UTs	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
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1.	Andaman & Nicobar	-	10.00	10.00
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2.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-
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3.	Goa	-	-	-
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4.	Gujarat	241.794	295.04	176.517
		9.11		

5.	Karnataka	10.90	15.00	43.80
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6. Kerala 37.305 37.305

7. Orissa 83.406 30.25 54.80  
7.50

8. Tamil Nadu 168.10289 157.190 181.283  
5.375

9. West Bengal 120.79711 147.90 237.60

10. Lakshadweep 10.00 -

#### Carried Forward

(c) & (d) The Forest Survey of India has been assessing the mangrove cover of the country using remote sensing since 1987. Assessment from 2001 onwards has been carried out at 1:50,000 scale. Country's present mangrove cover is given in the table given below:

(Area in km<sup>2</sup>)

S. No. State/UT Assessment Year

1987 1989 1991 1993 1995 1997 1999 2001 2003 2005 2009 2011 Chan  
ge w.r.  
t.2009

1 Andhra Pradesh 495 405 399 378 383 383 397 333 329 354 353 352 -1

2 Goa 0 3 3 3 3 5 5 5 16 16 17 22 5

3 Gujarat 427 412 397 419 689 901 1031 911 916 991 1,046 1058 12

4 Karnataka 0 0 0 0 2 3 3 2 3 3 3 3 0

5 Kerala 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 8 5 5 6 1

6 Maharashtra 140 114 113 155 155 124 108 118 158 186 186 186 0

7 Orissa 199 192 195 195 195 211 215 219 203 217 221 222 1

8 Tamil Nadu 23 47 47 21 21 21 21 23 35 36 39 39 0

9 West Bengal 2,076 2,109 2,119 2,119 2,119 2,123 2,125 2,081 2,120 2,136 2,152 2155 3

10 A&N Islands 686 973 971 966 966 966 966 789 658 635 615 617 2

11 Daman & Diu 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1.56 0.56

12 Puducherry 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 0

Total 4,046 4,255 4,244 4,256 4,533 4,737 4,871 4,482 4,448 4,581 4,639 4662.56 23.56

The current assessment shows that mangrove cover in the country is 4,662.56 km<sup>2</sup>. Compared with 2009 assessment, there has been a net increase of 23.56 km<sup>2</sup> in the mangrove cover of the country. This can be attributed to increased plantations particularly in the Gujarat State and also the regeneration of natural mangrove areas. As would be noted, there has been a net increase in mangrove forest cover on the west coast of India.

The State Government of Maharashtra has also informed that it has created a separate Mangrove Cell, headed by Chief Conservator of Forests for conservation and management of the mangrove areas in the State. The headquarter of the Cell is at Mumbai, with jurisdiction along the coast of Maharashtra. Mangroves are also protected under The Maharashtra Felling of Trees (Regulation) Act, 1964 and are included in the Schedule under the said Act. Further, the mangroves throughout the coastal regions of country, including Maharashtra, are protected under the provisions of CRZ Notification, 2011 and Island Protection Zone Notification, 2011.

(e) The concerned Coastal State Governments are taking necessary precautions to avoid encroachments and destruction of the mangrove forests. They are involving departments of forest, revenue and police for taking steps to evict unauthorized land grabbers from mangrove forest areas.