

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:56
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2012
CONSERVATION OF FORESTS
Rajendran Shri C.;Singh Shri Ravneet

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

- (a) the total area of forest cover in hectares along with the total geographical area as well as percentage of forest cover in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to launch a new initiative to expand forest cover in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (d) the scheme-wise details of the funds provided by the Government for conservation, development and promotion of forests in the States including Tamil Nadu during the last three years and the current year, State and year-wise?

Answer

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

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

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 56 by SHRI C. RAJENDRAN: SHRI RAVNEET SINGH due for reply on 26.11.2012

- (a) The details of total area of forest cover in hectare along with total geographical area as well as percentage of forest cover in the country, State-wise is given in Annexure-I.
- (b) & (c) Yes, Sir. Under the National Action Plan on Climate Change, a National Mission for a 'Green India' has been mooted with major objectives to increase forests/tree cover on 5 million hectare of forest/non-forest lands and also to improve the quality of the forest cover on another 5 million hectare.

In addition to the above, the following initiatives have also been taken by the Government to expand forest cover in the country:-

- (i) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country. The Scheme is implemented through a decentralized mechanism of State Forest Development Agency (SFDA) at State level, Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at Village levels. As on 31-03-2012, 800 FDA projects have been approved in 28 States in the country to treat an area of 18.86 lakh hectares since inception of the Scheme in 2002.
 - (ii) The Ministry release funds to the states under the Intensification of Forest Management Scheme (IFMS), for strengthening of forest protection such as infrastructure, fire protection, demarcation of forest boundaries, construction of facilities for frontline staff and communication which also contributed towards increase in the forest cover.
 - (iii) Under the award of 13th Finance Commission, a grant of Rs.5000 crores has been allocated as "Forest Grants" to the states on the basis of their forest cover in the State in relation to the national average. It has been further weighted by the quality of the forests in each state as measured by density.
 - (iv) Afforestation activities are also undertaken under various External Aided Projects by Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim and Rajasthan.
- (d) The details of funds released under Intensification of Forest Management Scheme (IFMS) and National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for Conservation, development and promotion of forests in the States including Tamil Nadu during the last three years and current year is given in Annexure-II and Annexure-III respectively.