

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1577

ANSWERED ON:03.12.2012

AREA UNDER FOREST COVER

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

- (a) whether the Government has released 'India State of Forest Report' in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study in regard to forest cover in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of funds provided and expenditure incurred for the conservation of forests in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

**Answer**

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The latest report 'India State of Forest Report 2011' (ISFR, 2011) was released on 7th February, 2012.

(b) The salient features of the India State of Forest Report 2011 are as follows:-

# Forest and tree cover of the country is 78.29 million hectares, which is 23.81% of the geographical area. This includes 2.76% of tree cover.

# The forest and tree cover is 25.22% after exclusion of 183135 square kilometers area above the altitude 4,000 meters from the total geographical area of the country as these areas do not support tree growth.

# In the hill and tribal districts of the country, a decrease in forest cover of 548 square kilometers and 679 square kilometers respectively has been reported as compared to the previous assessment.

# The north eastern States of the India account for one-fourth of the country's forest cover. There is a net decline of 549 square kilometers in forest cover as compared to the previous assessment.

# Mangrove cover has increased by 23.34 square kilometers during the same period.

# The total growing stock of India's forest and tree outside forests is estimated as 6047.15 million cubicmeters which comprises 4498.73 million cubicmeters inside the forests and 1548.42 million cubicmeters outside the forests.

# The total bamboo bearing area in the country is estimated to be 13.96 million hectares.

# The total carbon stock in the country's forests is estimated to be 6663 million tonnes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The scientific system of periodic Forest Cover assessment of the country is made by Forest Survey of India on biennial basis since 1987. The current report, India State of Forest Report 2011, pertains to Twelfth cycle of Forest Cover mapping. As per ISFR-2011, the forest cover is 21.05% of geographical area and is 692,027 square kilometers.

The details of forest cover, class wise and state wise is given in Annexure I.

(e) The details of funds released and expenditure incurred under Intensification of Forest Management Scheme (IFMS), National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and Green India Mission (GIM) for the conservation of forests in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise is given in Annexure-II, Annexure-III and Annexure-IV respectively.