

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2113
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2013
LAND UNDER ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Ponnam Shri Prabhakar

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

- (a) whether the Government has any details of the hectares of land covered under environmental protection and afforestation in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during last three years and the current year including Andhra Pradesh, State-wise; and
- (c) the role of Government fixed in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Afforestation/Tree plantation targets are fixed by Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) annually to States/UTs under 20 Point Programme. The details of afforestation achievements by the States including Andhra Pradesh made during the last three years and current year (till October, 2012) are annexed.

(c) The afforestation in the country is taken up cross sectorally under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), National Bamboo Mission, 13th Finance Commission and also under different State Plan/Non Plan Schemes including externally aided projects. Apart from these Schemes, Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing a major scheme National Afforestation Programme (NAP), which is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme for afforestation and tree plantation and eco restoration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country through people's participation. Since inception of NAP in the year 2000, an area of 19.11 lakhs ha has been targeted for afforestation with the investment of Rs. 2991.67 cr. Besides NAP, qualitative and quantitative improvement in forests and tree cover over ten million hectares of area has also been envisaged under the Green India Mission programme.