

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3309
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013
FOREST PRODUCTS
Sardinha Shri Francisco;Singh Shri Jagada Nand

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

- (a) whether average forest productivity in the country is quite low in comparison with the other country at international;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether there is a wide gap in demand and supply of forest products at national level;
- (d) if so, the difference between demand and supply in various states vis-a-vis demand and supply;
- (e) the scheme proposed to be formulated to bridge the gap in near future;
- (f) the item-wise details of forest products imported during the last three years; and (g) the reasons for the said import?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. As per Asia Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study-II (Country Report), 2009, average forest productivity in the country is recorded to be 0.7m³/ha/yr compared to global forest productivity of 2.1m³/ha/yr.
- (c) & (d) Yes, Sir. As per India State of Forest Report-2011, the annual production of wood from forests and Tree Outside Forests (TOF) is estimated to be 45.949 million cubic meter which is not even sufficient to meet the construction demand of 48 million cubic meters largely for household construction and furniture, industrial construction and furniture and agricultural implements. Similarly, the total annual consumption of fuelwood for the country is estimated to be 216.42 million tonnes out of which 58.75 million tonnes comes from forests. The state-wise details in respect of fuelwood consumption are given in Annexure-1.
- (e) Various initiatives of the Ministry including afforestation contribute to bridging the gap in demand and supply. Afforestation in the country is taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), National Bamboo Mission (NBM), 13th Finance Commission and also under different State Plan/ Non- Plan Schemes including externally aided projects. National Afforestation Programme (NAP) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests 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.
- (f) The details of import of major wood and wood products in India during 2007-08 to 2009-10 are given in Annexure-II.
- (g) The main reason for import is the gap in demand and supply of forest products.