

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4374

ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013

PROMOTION OF AFFORESTATION SCHEMES

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

- (a) the details of degraded forest areas and lands adjoining the forest areas, National Parks, Sanctuaries and other protected areas, across the country;
- (b) the details of funds earmarked for promoting afforestation, tree plantation, ecological restoration and eco-development activities in the country;
- (c) the details of area/land covered till date under afforestation scheme; and
- (d) the time by which the remaining land areas will be covered under the said scheme?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d) Separate assessment of degraded forest land in the country as a classification has not been undertaken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. However, as per India State of Forest Report, 2011, about 4.22 million ha. area is the recorded 'Scrub Forest' which is deemed as degraded. The recorded 'Open Forest' area of about 28.78 million ha also has the tracts of degraded forest lands.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for afforestation & eco-restoration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in participatory mode under Joint Forest Management (JFM). Since the inception of NAP, an area of 19.39 lakh ha. has been targeted till 31/03/2013 by incurring an investment of Rs.3043.74 crore.

In order to improve eco-system services and to gear up afforestation and regeneration of degraded forest tracts, an area of about 10 million ha. is envisaged to be tackled under Green India Mission (GIM) during 12th and 13th Five Year Plan period. Rs.2500 crore has been approved under NAP Scheme and Rs. 2000 crore under GIM, for the 12th Plan period. In addition, various State Governments are also implementing schemes for improvement of degraded forest utilizing State funds and Externally Aided Projects.