

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4479
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013
CONSERVATION OF ENVIRONMENT
Singh Shri Radha Mohan

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

- (a) the total land under afforestation in the country in terms of acres under environment conservation scheme, State-wise;
- (b) the States including Bihar where afforestation was done in terms of acres and the details thereof during the last two years till December 2012, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to make the metropolitan cities pollution free in future along with the details of vision envisaged to make the country pollution free during first phase of 12th Five Year Plan?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) which is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme for 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 about 19.39 lakh ha. (around 48 lakh acres) has been targeted for afforestation with the investment of Rs. 3043.74 crores. The details of State-wise targeted area of afforestation, including Bihar, from the year 2000-02 to 2012-13 is given in the Annexure.

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. Afforestation in the country is taken also 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.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to control air pollution in the country including National Capital Region (NCR) and metro-cities inter alia include the following.

1. Bharat stage-IV emission norms have been implemented in 13 mega cities including NCR for new 4-wheelers from 2010.
2. Mass emission standards (Bharat Stage III) have been notified for two, three wheelers and diesel driven agricultural tractors from April 1, 2010 throughout the country.
3. Stringent Emission Standards have been implemented to regulate emissions from in-use vehicles from October 2004.
4. Supply of improved diesel and gasoline.
5. Operating Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) mode public transport in Delhi.
6. Introduction of metro in Delhi to promote use of mass public transport system.
7. Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards are implementing the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981 to restore air quality.
8. A mutually time targeted programme is implemented under Corporate Responsibility for Environment Protection (CREP).
9. Special drives for prevention and control of pollution in 17 categories of highly polluted industries.