

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5382

ANSWERED ON:29.04.2013

INCREASE IN FOREST COVER

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

- (a) the details of forest areas in the country as on date, State-wise;
- (b) whether rapid decrease in the forest areas is posing serious danger to environment.
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to increase the forest cover during the current Five Year Plan period;
- (e) if so, the total funds allotted during the current Five Year Plan for the purpose;
- (f) the details of achievements made during the last Five Year Plan in the regard;
- (g) whether the Government proposes to enact a new law for conservation of land; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) As per the India State of Forest Report 2011 (ISFR 2011), the State-wise details of forest cover in the country are given in Annexure I.

(b) & (c) Forest and Tree cover of the country as per India State of Forest Report 2011, assessment is 78.29 million hectares which is 23.81% of the geographical area. This includes 2.76% of tree cover. There is marginal decrease of 367 km² in the forest cover in comparison to 2009 assessment.

(d), (e) & (f) Afforestation in the country is taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as 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. The Scheme is being implemented through a decentralized mechanism of State Forest Development Agency (SFDA) at State level, Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at Village levels. An amount of Rs.2500 crores has been approved for NAP in the 12th Five Year Plan. The details of funds released during last five years (2007-08 to 2011-12) and 2012-13 are given in Annexure II. The details of areas approved under NAP scheme are given in Annexure III.

(g) & (h) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has no proposal to enact a new law for conservation of land