

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:991

ANSWERED ON:12.08.2013

NATIONAL FOREST POLICY

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

- (a) whether the Government has fixed any target for green cover under the National Forest Policy, 1988;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the said target;
- (d) whether environmental activists have expressed concern over the fast depleting forest cover in Himalayan region of the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to protect it from both ecological and tourism point of view?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The National Forest Policy, 1988 provides for having a minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover as a national goal. The Policy further prescribes that in the hills and in mountainous regions, the aim should be to maintain two-third of the area under such cover in order to prevent erosion and land degradation and to ensure the stability of the fragile eco-system. The details of forest cover State/ UT-wise as per India State of Forest Report 2011 are given in table at Annexure.

(c) The Ministry of Environment & Forests is supporting the State Governments in implementing the programmes of afforestation, forest conservation and protection to achieve this goal. The Government of India supports afforestation and social forestry programmes, especially on all denuded, degraded and unproductive lands through various schemes like National Afforestation Programme (NAP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), 13th Finance Commission under different State Plan/ Non-Plan schemes including Externally-Aided Projects etc. with public participation in the form of Joint Forest Management (JFM).

(d) & (e) No such reports have been received in the Ministry.