

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1708
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013
CONVERSION OF FOREST WASTELAND
Chaudhary Shri Haribhai Parthibhai;Choudhary Shri Harish

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to change the status of wasteland in the forests to green land;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the problems being faced by the Government in changing the status;and
- (c) the time by which the Government is likely to change the status of wasteland to green land?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The 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 of the country through people's participation. An amount of Rs 3209.33crores has been released till date to the States under NAP, to treat an area of 2 millionhectares since its inception in 2000-2002.Besides NAP, Ministry of Environment and Forestsis also implementing the National Mission for Green India (GIM) on landscape approach with people's participation, which envisages improvement in quality of forest cover to the extent of 5 million hectare in the next 10 years alongwith increase in forest and tree cover over another 5 million hectare of land mainly non-forest lands. Under GIMan amount of Rs.49.95crores has been released to 21 States for carrying outpreparatory activities in 71 identified landscapes during 2011-12. The State-wise details of funds released and approved area under NAP are given in Annexure-I and fund released under GIM is given in Annexure-II. The major problems faced by Government in afforesting degraded areas are biotic pressure, illicit felling of trees, encroachment, shifting cultivation etc.

Apart from NAP and GIM, large scale afforestation work is also being carried out by other Ministries under schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), National Bamboo Mission, Thirteenth Finance Commission and under various State Plan and Non Plan schemes.