

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1763

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013

CONSERVATION OF FOREST COVER

Bajirao Shri Patil Padamsinha ;Sukur Shri Jadhav Baliram

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to prepare an integrated forest conservation scheme to increase forest cover in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the target fixed for afforestation in the 10th Five Year Plan has been achieved;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor along with the amount spent during the said period, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the target of afforestation fixed for the current Five Year Plan period; and
- (e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government?

Answer

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

(a) No, Sir. The Government does not propose to prepare an integrated forest conservation scheme to increase forest cover in the country.

(b) to (d) The targets for afforestation/tree planting are fixed annually and monitored under 20-Point Programme. The targets and achievements for the year 2002-03 to 2006-07 in 10th Five Year Plan and from 2011-12 to 2013-14, upto August 2013, in Current/ 12th Five Year Plan are as given below:

Area in million ha.				
Five Year Plan	Year	Target	Achievement	
	2002-03	1.53	1.14	
Tenth	2003-04	1.5	1.22	
	2004-05	2.12	1.58	
	2005-06	2.26	1.99	
	2006-07	2.61	2.32	
	2011-12	1.74	1.60	
Current/ 12th plan	2012- 13	1.54	1.63	
	2013-14	1.48	0.84#	

Achievement upto August 2013 Few states have not achieved the targets. Some of the reasons for less achievement of targets as reported by the States/UTs are:

(i) Inadequate funds available with the State Forest Departments/other agencies.

(ii) Poor infrastructure and capacity of the Department including staff shortage.

(e) The following steps have been taken by the Government for Afforestation/Tree Planting:

(i) Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) 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. Since inception of NAP in 2000-2002, 2 million hectares have been treated incurring an expenditure of Rs 3209.33 crores. State wise details of Funds released and approved area under NAP are given in Annexure I.

(ii) MoEF is 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 along with increase in forest and tree cover over another 5 million hectare of land mainly non-forest lands. Under GIM an amount of Rs.49.95 crores has been released to 21 States for carrying out preparatory activities in 71 identified landscapes during 2011-12. State wise details of Funds released under GIM are given in Annexure II.

(iii) Six Eco Task Force Battalions are operational in the states of Assam, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan for undertaking restoration of degraded ecosystems through afforestation, soil conservation and water resource management techniques

in remote and difficult areas. During the last three years , from 2011-12 to 2013-14 (as on 30.11.13) an amount of Rs 62.20 crores has been reimbursed to the Ministry of Defence for establishment cost of the battalions.

(iv) Tree planting is a permissible activity under a number of schemes of other Ministries of Government of India and 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 which aids in increasing forest and tree cover in the country.