

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3983
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009
INSURANCE SCHEME FOR PLANTATION SECTOR
Roy Shri Nripendra Nath

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a Group of Ministers on plantation industry headed by the Union Agriculture Minister convened a meeting of Chief Ministers of States in December, 2008 to review subsidy formula for Rs. 729 crore insurance scheme for the plantation sector;
- (b) if so, the outcome of the meeting held;
- (c) whether India is likely to achieve 30 per cent forest cover by promoting agro forestry; and
- (d) if so, the concrete measures and steps taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a): No, Madam.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) & (d): As per assessment carried out by Forest Survey of India, State of Forest Report of 2009, the Forest and Tree Cover in the country is 78.37 million hectare in 2007 which is 23.84 percent of geographical area. As recorded forest areas available for increasing the forest cover is limited, agro-forestry/farm forestry also helps in development of forestry in the country. The following steps have been taken to promote afforestation/tree planting in the country:-

Afforestation/Tree Planting is permissible activity under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) on the lands of Scheduled Cast/Scheduled Trive/Small and Marginal Farmers.

The National Afforestation Programme, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Ministry of Environment and Forests to promote Agro-Forestry.

The Ministry of Environment and Forest has advised States/UTs to simplify regulations to remove hardship in felling and transit of such trees on private lands.