

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:245

ANSWERED ON:09.07.2014

DECLINING FOREST COVER

Mani Shri Jose K.;Patel Shri Devji Mansingram

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the forest areas are declining in many parts/ districts of country including Rajasthan and Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has received proposals from Kerala & Rajasthan regarding protection and development of forests;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to increase the forest cover across the country and to prevent felling of trees?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR):

(a) & (b) As per India State of Forest Report-2013, there is an overall increase of 5871 square kilometre in forest cover at country level. The Forest Cover in some States has increased and in some States has decreased. There is an increase of 622 square kilometer forest cover in Kerala and a marginal decrease of 1(one) square kilometre in Rajasthan. The details of change in forest cover and the reasons thereof are given in Annexure-I & II respectively.

(c) & (d) The Government has received proposals from Forest Department of Kerala and Rajasthan under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme: Intensification of Forest Management for 2014-15. Kerala Forest Department has submitted the Annual Work Programme (AWP) of Rs. 602.08 lakhs and Rajasthan Forest Department has submitted the Annual Work Programme of Rs. 400.03 lakhs and the same are under examination.

(e) 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) and under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), 13th Finance Commission, 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. As on 31.03.2014, 800 FDA projects have been approved in 28 States in the country to treat an area of 20.24 lakh hectare under the NAP scheme since inception of the scheme in 2002.

To prevent felling of trees, Ministry provides Grants-in-aid to State Governments under Intensification Forest Management Scheme (IFMS). The aim of the scheme is to supplement the efforts of the States forest management and protection. Funds under the scheme are utilized for patrolling of the forests, establishment of camps, building fire watch towers, creation and maintenance of fire lines, forest fire control, survey and demarcation of forest areas and strengthening forest infrastructure. Under the IFMS a sum of Rs. 5106.81 lakh was released to States/UTs for the year 2013-14.