

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:301  
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2014  
MONITORING FOREST COVER  
Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran

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

- (a) whether the Government has any mechanism for monitoring and assessment of the forest/green cover in the country and if so, the details thereof, along with the forest cover reported in the country, State and UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to utilise remote sensing technology for the purpose and if so, the details thereof including the benefits of the said technology in terms of time and cost;
- (c) whether the Government has any plan for promoting afforestation by planting trees like sal in the various States including Jharkhand and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the funds allocated, sanctioned and utilised for the purpose during the last two years and the current year, year-wise?

**Answer**

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

- (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 301 by Shri Bidyut Baran Mahato due for reply on 30.07.2014.

(a) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun carries out monitoring of forest cover in the country on a biennial basis using remote sensing data. The information regarding the same is brought out in the form of India State of Forest Report (ISFR) of which ISFR-2013 is the latest. As per India State of Forest Report-2013, the total forest cover in the country is 6,97,898 square kilometers. The details of forest cover State and UT- wise are given in Annexure-I.

(b) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun has been carrying out forest cover mapping of the country on wall to wall basis using remote sensing technology since 1987. The satellite data being used currently for the same is Resourcesat 2/IRSP6 LISS III. The satellite data provides a synoptic view of the area and one satellite scene covers approximately 20,000 sq.km on the ground. The satellite undertakes repeat data acquisition after a period of 24 days. Thus, remote sensing technology provides a time series data of a given area in a cost effective manner which is useful for the forest cover assessment.

(c) Afforestation in the country is taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP), 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 Grant, 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. The choice of species for plantation is determined by a number of local factors including site quality, availability of moisture and preference of local communities. The native forest species with multiple uses are encouraged for plantation in the forest areas including Sal. The State-wise details of approved area under NAP including State of Jharkhand since inception of the scheme till 30.06.2014 are given in Annexure II. In the State of Jharkhand, trial plantations of Sal and its associates have been taken up. As the viability of seeds of Sal is very low (about 15 days), raising of artificial plantation of Sal is difficult. The details of plantation of Sal and its associates in forests of Ranchi, East Singhbhum and Deoghar district of Jharkhand are as under:-

Year Area taken up under Sal plantation  
2008 22 Ha.  
2011 15 Ha.  
2012 1 Ha.

- (d) The fund released during last two years and current year under NAP Scheme are given in Annexure III. In addition to this, under the

preparatory phase of the 'National Mission for a Green India', funds to the tune of Rs. 4994.55 lakh and Rs. 1267.00 lakh have been allotted to the States in the financial years 2011-12 and 2013-14 respectively for undertaking enabling activities such as institutional strengthening, training, identification of landscapes and preparation of Perspective Plan for implementation of the Green India Mission. The State Governments have reported utilisation of Rs. 3870.88 lakh so far. An amount of Rs.147.00 lakh was allocated to the Government of Jharkhand in the year 2011-12 and utilization so far is Rs. 75.50 lakh.