

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2795
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2014
FOREST COVER IN TELANGANA
Reddy Shri Ponguleti Srinivasa

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

- (a) the notified forest area in Telangana State;
- (b) the measures taken for development and conservation of forest in the State;
- (c) whether there are reports of large scale illegal encroachments of forest land in the State;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government to curb such illegal activities and retrieve such forest land in Telangana?

Answer

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

- (a) As per the report received from the State Forest Department, the notified forest area in the Telangana State is 28,853.79 square kilometers.
- (b) Afforestation in the country including Telangana 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. In the state of Telangana, there is a provision of Rs.59.70 crores under the State plan schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Rs. 101.94 crores, under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) and Rs. 6.50 crores under National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for various development and conservation works during 2014-15.
- (c) & (d) Yes, Sir. The total forest area under encroachment in the State based on the offence cases booked is 1, 83,465 hectare.
- (e) The Telangana State Forest department is taking the following steps in protecting the forest areas from fresh encroachments:-
 - (i) Forest areas are under constant vigil through regular patrolling, establishment of base camps and strike forces.
 - (ii) Offence cases are booked against encroachers under various Acts and rules thereof.