

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2964

ANSWERED ON:30.07.2014

FOREST COVER

Thota Shri Narasimham

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

- (a) whether as per the Global Forest Resource Association, India is at 10th position in terms of forest area in the World and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to formulate a national policy to synchronise the afforestation programme with climate change to reduce the green house gas emission;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and whether the suggestions from various stakeholders and experts have been sought in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (e) the role likely to be played by local communities and financial assistance granted to them in the initiative for increasing forest cover?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir. As per Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA), 2010, the details of top ten countries with largest forest area are given in Annexure.

(b), (c) & (d) The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change is implementing the "National Mission for a Green India", one of the Missions under National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). This Mission document has been prepared through a consultative process involving all concerned stakeholders. The Mission aims at both increasing the forest and tree cover by 5 million hectare, as well as improving the quality of the existing forest cover in another 5 million hectare. Implementation of the Mission envisages decentralized participatory approach with involvement of grass root level organizations in planning, decision making, implementation and monitoring. It will be implemented by the Gram Sabha and the Committees mandated by the Gram Sabha, including revamped Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level, revamped Forest Development Agency (FDA) under the chair of an elected representative at district/division level, revamped State Forest Development Agency with a Steering Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary and an Executive Committee chaired by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests at the State/U.T. level. A multidisciplinary team, both from Government and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) will be mandated to facilitate planning and implementation at cluster/landscape unit level. The Mission proposes a holistic view of greening and focuses not on carbon sequestration targets alone, but, on multiple ecosystem services, especially, biodiversity, water, biomass etc, along with carbon sequestration as a co-benefit.

(e) The National Mission for a Green India recognizes the fact that strengthened Gram Sabhas hold the key to decentralized governance of forests and natural resources. The Mission would therefore, help strengthen Gram Sabhas as the over arching institutions.

The Mission envisages participation of local communities, Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), farmers, private sector, institutions, government agencies and the Forest Departments to promote and support Agro-Forestry and Social Forestry at a massive scale on non-forest lands. The Mission will provide a demand-driven window for innovative initiatives and small scale projects to a range of stakeholders. The innovative funds would be available at national, state and district level Mission organization. At district level, the innovative fund can be used for initiatives by the local level organizations to try out things in consonance with the overall Mission goals and objectives