

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2982
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2014
MONITORING OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Panda Shri Baijayant "Jay"

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey on natural resources of the country and mapped them;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to monitor the natural resources of the country and create a quantifiable index of their health on the lines as tabulated by Uttarakhand as Gross Environment Product (GEP) to monitor the health of the State's natural resources;
- (d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed by the Government to periodically review/monitor natural resources as a strategy for conservation of ecosystem and biodiversity?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Government has been undertaking inventory, assessment and mapping of Natural Resources of the country through R&D projects under the National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS) Programme inter alia in the areas of Forests Types, Wetlands, Selected Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks, Coastal Zones including mangroves, coral reefs and Himalayan Snow and Glaciers. The Forest Survey of India has been carrying out the forest cover assessment and national forest inventory of the Forest Resources on a regular basis. The Botanical Survey of India and Zoological Survey of India have been carrying out the survey and inventorization of flora and fauna, its documentation including traditional knowledge associated with it. The Central Pollution Control Board along with the State Pollution Control Boards have been monitoring the air and water quality through a network of air and water quality monitoring stations across the Country.

The major outcomes of the Natural Resources Survey have been inter alia documented in the following publications: India State of Forest Report, National and State/Union Territory wise Wetland Atlases, Coastal Zones of India, Atlas of Forest Types of India, Snow and Glaciers of the Himalayas, Plant and Animal Discoveries and National Ambient Air Quality Status & Trends in India and Status of Water Quality in India. These publications are in the public domain for wider dissemination and use.

(c) & (d) The Government has been monitoring the Natural Resources of the country periodically inter alia the forest resources, flora and fauna, various natural eco-systems such as wetlands, mangroves, coral reefs, Himalayan Snow and Glaciers, air and water quality to support development of policies and strategies for conservation of eco-system and biodiversity. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) had constituted an Expert Group to develop a frame-work of Green National Accounts and prepare a road map for India to implement the framework. The Group submitted its report in March, 2013. The report is available on the website on MOSPI for information of the public.

(e) Does not arise.