

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3848
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2014
NATIONAL FOREST POLICY
Chandumajra Shri Prem Singh

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

- (a) whether as per the National Forest Policy thirty three percent of the total geographical land area must be forest land;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said policy is followed in the States and UTs and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the programmes launched by the Government to implement the National Forest Policy in the country; and
- (e) the time-limit fixed to achieve the targets under the policy?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) National Forest Policy, 1988 (NFP) provides for having a minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover as a national goal. The Policy further prescribes that in the hills and in mountainous regions, the aim should be to maintain two-third of the area under such cover in order to prevent erosion and land degradation and to ensure the stability of the fragile eco-system. The Policy does not prescribe State specific targets of forest and tree cover. Some States and Union Territories have forest and tree cover more than the target prescribed in the NFP, whereas, some States/ UTs have less area under forest and tree cover. The state and Union Territories wise details of forest cover are given in Annexure.

This Ministry, through various Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. National Afforestation Programme (NAP), Green India Mission, Intensification of Forest Management Scheme is supplementing the efforts of the Governments of States/ Union Territories in implementing the programmes of afforestation, forest conservation and protection to achieve this goal. States/ UTs also receive financial support through Externally Aided Projects and Grants made under the 13th Finance Commission. There is no time limit fixed for achieving the goal of National Forest Policy.