

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4971

ANSWERED ON:23.12.2014

TREE CENSUS

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

- (a) whether the Forest Survey of India (FSI) conducts regular inventory of trees in forests and outside forests in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the reports of the FSI has shown any decline in the number of trees gradually; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken to plant more trees in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun conducts regular inventory of trees in forest and trees outside forest under its National Forest Inventory Programme. The Inventory is conducted by selecting 60 districts randomly on a cycle of two years. On the basis of data collected from these 60 districts, growing stock estimates are generated at National and State levels and the results are published in "India State of Forest Report (ISFR)" on biennial basis. As per the latest India State of Forest Report 2013, the estimated number of stems at National level in forest is 13 billion and outside forest is 5 billion. The volume of wood inside the forest is estimated to be 4.2 billion cubic meters and that outside is 1.5 billion cubic meters. The details are given in Annexure I & II.

(c) & (d) As per the India State of Forest Report 2013, the number of stems have increased from 11910 million to 13062 million in forest area as compared to estimate of 2009, whereas the number of stems in Trees Outside Forest have decreased in 2013 as compared to 2009 from 5508 million to 5080 million.

To improve the existing forests and bring more areas under forests, 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), 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. As on 26.11.2014, 800 FDA projects have been approved in 29 States in the country to treat an area of 20.97 lakh hectares under the National Afforestation Programme scheme since inception of the scheme in 2002. An amount of Rs. 3486.93 crores has been released till 02.12.2014 under National Afforestation Programme scheme since its inception.

Besides National Afforestation Programme, various steps taken to expand forest cover in the country includes:-

# XIIIth Finance Commission has recommended Rs. 5000 crore for five years starting from 2010-11 for conservation and development of forests, out of which Rs. 3984.23 crore has been released to 29 States as on 30.09.2014.

# 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) aims to increase forest and tree cover by 5 million hectares as well as increasing the quality of the existing forest cover in another 5 million hectares, environmental amelioration through climate change mitigation, forest based livelihood of local communities and also to improve ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, bio-diversity and hydrological services. The mission envisages participation of variety of stakeholders in achieving the objectives.