

(a) whether there are instructions that the letters from Ministries/Departments should bear the telephone number of its signatory;

(b) if so, whether the instructions are being followed by all the Ministries/Departments; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to ensure strict compliance of the instructions?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) They are, by and large, being followed.

(c) Since occasional lapses come to notice, these instructions have been reiterated from time to time.

Pace of Afforestation

*912. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAHATA:
SHRI ANBARASU ERA:

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

(a) whether there are States where the work of afforestation has not been able to cope up completely with the rate of deforestation;

(b) if so, whether Government have any plans to contain deforestation in those States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUFRAY): (a) According to the forest cover assessment done by the Forest Survey of India using satellite imagery of 1981-83 and 1985-87, State-wise forest cover

differences during this period are as given in the attached Statement - I.

(b) and (c). Government have taken a number of steps to contain the deforestation in the country including the following:-

- (i) The National Forest Policy, 1988, lays more emphasis on conservation of forests. There are specific provisions for protection of forests from grazing, fires and encroachment.
- (ii) Forest Conservation Act was enacted in 1980 to check diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. The Act has been made more stringent by an amendment of 1988.
- (iii) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme is under implementation to help the States to develop infrastructure for protection of forests.
- (iv) Alternative sources of energy are encouraged to replace fuelwood in domestic and commercial sectors.
- (v) Wood is substituted by alternative materials in packaging, railway sleepers, building construction, furniture etc.
- (vi) Import policy for timber has been liberalised.
- (vii) Efforts are being made to control shifting cultivation.
- (viii) Guidelines have been issued to State/Union Territory Governments from time to time for protection of forests. State and Union Territory Governments have been suggested;

- (a) To avoid felling of natural forests and where such fellings are inevitable for restoration of crop of other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to area not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.
- (b) To consider banning of fellings in the hills above 1,000 metres, at least for some years.
- (c) In identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.
- (d) To set apart 4% of the geographical area as protection area like wild-life sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserves etc.
- (e) To take measures for protection of forests from fires.
- (ix) The National Wastelands Development Board set up with the principal aim of undertaking a massive programme of afforestation and tree planting has undertaken programmes for:-
- * Checking land degradation.
 - * putting wastelands to sustainable use.
 - * increasing biomass availability- specially fuelwood/fodder; and
 - * restoring ecological balance.
- In addition to the general afforestation/tree planting programme implemented all over the country, schemes and projects under implementation in the States were the Forest Cover Assessment difference is negative is given in the attached Statement - II.

STATEMENT-I

Forest Cover Comparative Situation

(1987 and 1989)

(Area: sq. km.)

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Forest Cover Assessment				Percentage change
		1987 Assessment based on imagery 1981-83	1989 Assessment based on imagery 1985-87	Difference in Sq. Km.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50194	47911	-2283	-4.5	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	60500	68763	+8263	+13.6	
3.	Assam	26386	26058	-328	-1.2	
4.	Bihar	28748	26934	-1814	-6.3	
5.	Goa (including Daman & Diu)	1285	1300	+15	+1.2	

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Forest Cover Assessment				Percentage change
		1987 Assessment based on Imagery 1981-83	1989 Assessment based on Imagery 1985-87	Difference in Sq. Km.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	
6.	Gujarat	13570	11670	-1900	-14.0	
7.	Haryana	644	563	-81	-12.5	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12882	13377	+495	+3.8	
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	20880	20424	-456	-2.1	
10.	Karnataka	32264	32100	-164	-0.5	
11.	Kerala	10402	10149	-253	-2.43	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	127749	133191	+5442	+4.25	
13.	Maharashtra	47416	44058	-3358	-7.02	

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Forest Cover Assessment				Percentage change
		1987 Assessment based on imagery 1981-83	1989 Assessment based on imagery 1985-87	Difference in Sq. Km.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	
14.	Manipur	17679	17885	+206	+1.16	
15.	Meghalaya	16511	15890	-621	-4.97	
16.	Mizoram	19092	18178	-914	-4.78	
17.	Nagaland	14351	14356	+5	+0.03	
18.	Orissa	53163	47137	-6026	-11.3	
19.	Punjab	766	1151	+395	+51.5	
20.	Rajasthan	12478	12966	+488	+3.9	
21.	Sikkim	2839	3124	+285	+10.0	

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Forest Cover Assessment				Percentage change
		1987 Assessment based on imagery 1981-83	1989 Assessment based on imagery 1985-87	Difference in Sq. Km.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	
22.	Tamil Nadu	18380	17715	-665	-3.6	
23.	Tripura	5743	5325	-418	-7.2	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	31443	33844	+2401	+7.63	
25.	West Bengal	8811	8394	-417	-4.7	
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	7603	7624	+21	+0.27	
27.	Chandigarh	2	8	+6	+30.0	
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	237	205	-32	-13.5	
29.	Daman & Diu	—	2	—	—	

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Forest Cover Assessment				Percentage change
		1987 Assessment based on imagery 1981-83	1989 Assessment based on imagery 1985-87	Difference in Sq. Km.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	
30.	Delhi	15	22	+7	+46.6	
31.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	
32.	Pondicherry	8	—	—	—	
Total		642041	640134	-1907	0.29	

STATEMENT-II

Projects/Schemes during the Seventh Five Year Plan in States where Forest Cover Assessment difference is negative

Sl. No.	State	Projects/Scheme
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	(i) Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) assisted Social Forestry Project.
		(ii) Scheme for Control of Shifting Cultivation.
2.	Assam	Scheme for Control of Shifting Cultivation.
3.	Bihar	Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) assisted Social Forestry Project.
4.	Gujarat	World Bank assisted Social Forestry Project.
5.	Haryana	World Bank and Danish International Development Agency assisted Social Forestry Project.
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	World Bank and Danish International Development Agency assisted Social Forestry Project.
7.	Karnataka	World Bank and United Kingdom Overseas Development Agency assisted Social Forestry Project.

Sl. No.	State	Projects/Scheme
1	2	3
8.	Kerala	World Bank assisted Social Forestry Project, assisted Social Forestry Project.
9.	Maharashtra	United States Agency for International Development assisted Social Forestry Project.
10.	Meghalaya	Scheme for Control of Shifting Cultivation.
11.	Mizoram	Scheme for Control of Shifting Cultivation.
12.	Orissa	(i) Scheme for Control of Shifting Cultivation. (ii) SIDA assisted Social Forestry Project.
13.	Tamil Nadu	SIDA assisted Social Forestry Project.
14.	Tripura	Scheme for Control of Shifting Cultivation.
15.	West Bengal	World Bank assisted Social Forestry Project.