

**"Forest Cover"**

\*384. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:  
SHRI C. JANGA REDDY:

different steps taken by Government, denudation of forests continues unabated, resulting in a serious environmental imbalance; and

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

(c) whether Government have taken a fresh look towards the seriousness of the problem, if so, the latest action plan chalked out in this regard?

(a) the total area under forest cover in the country at the beginning of each of Five Year Plans, State-Wise, and at present;

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) to (c). Statement I & II are given below.

(b) whether despite various laws and

**STATEMENT***State/UT Wise Areas under Forest Cover**(in Square Kilometer)*

<i>States/UTs.</i>	<i>Forest Cover NRSA Report (1972-75)</i>	<i>Forest Cover FSI Report** (1981-83)</i>
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	49049	50194
2. Arunachal Pradesh	51438	60500
3. Assam	21055	26386
4. Bihar	22687	28748
5. Goa, Daman & Diu	1221	1285
6. Gujarat	9459	13570
7. Haryana	757	644
8. Himachal Pradesh	15075	12882
9. Jammu & Kashmir	22335	20880
10. Karnataka	29480	32264
11. Kerala	8611	10402

1	2	3
12. Madhya Pradesh	108568	127749
13. Maharashtra	40682	47416
14. Manipur	15092	17679
15. Meghalaya	14390	16511
16. Mizoram	13860	19092
17. Nagaland	8154	14351
18. Orissa	48383	53163
19. Punjab	1120	766
20. Rajasthan	11294	12478
21. Sikkim	1761	2839
22. Tamil Nadu	16676	18380
23. Tripura	6330	5743
24. Uttar Pradesh	25869	31443
25. West Bengal	8347	8812
26. A&N Islands	3294	7603
27. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	177	237
28. Chandigarh		2
29. Delhi	18	15
30. Pondicherry	—	8
Total	555180	242041

Reconciled figures of Forest Survey of India (FSI) and National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA).

**STATEMENT-II*****Steps taken to Check Deforestation and Increase Area under Forests***

While denudation of forests is continuing because of acute biotic pressure, the pace of deforestation has been arrested in recent years. The following measures have been taken to check deforestation and increase area under forests:-

1. Forests (Conservation) Act was enacted in 1980 to check diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes.
2. A Centrally sponsored scheme has been started to help the states to develop infrastructure for enforcement of legal provisions for the protection of forests.
3. Alternative sources of energy are being developed to replace fuelwood in domestic and commercial sectors.
4. Wood is being substituted by alternative materials in packaging, railway sleepers, building constructions etc.
5. Import policy for forests products has been liberalised.
6. Fiscal incentives are given to industries for wood substitution.
7. Efforts are being made to control shifting cultivation.
8. Guidelines have been issued to State Governments from time to time for protection of forests. Some of these guidelines are as follows:

i) To avoid clear felling of natural forests and where such felling are inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.

ii) To consider banning of fellings in the hills above 1000 meters, at least for some years.

iii) To identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.

iv) To set apart 4% of the geographical areas as protection area like wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserves etc.

9. National Wastelands Development Board was set up in 1985 to take up massive afforestation programme in the country with people's participation. The following schemes are being implemented by it:-

i) Operation Soil-Watch

ii) Rural Fuelwood plantations

iii) Decentralised Nurseries

iv) Grant-in-aid to voluntary agencies

v) Social forestry through employment generation programmes.