

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Uttaranchal	159.9212	192.78	202.005	270.8400
17.	Uttar Pradesh	162.8782	183.265	134.89	157.5100
18.	West Bengal	228.29358	190.5283	308.67414	111.5693
	ALL INDIA	3345.5076	3289.8609	6270.94035	6786.4578

Environment friendly technologies

1126. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he reportedly said that developing countries like India badly need access to environment-friendly technologies specially in energy, transportation, manufacturing and agriculture;

(b) whether he also sought a national debate on energy pricing policies to examine whether over use of resources through misdirected subsidies was leading to environmental degradation; and

(c) if so, whether Government has so far finalized the “National Plan of Action on Climate Change” including energy policies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) The need for environment friendly technologies and a comprehensive energy policy have been emphasized including implications for environment protection.

The Prime Minister released the National Action Plan on Climate Change in end June 2008. The Action Plan includes five missions on adaptation, two on mitigation and one on strategic knowledge. Concerned Ministries are firming up the details for these Missions.

The Report of the Expert Committee on Integrated Energy Policy was submitted in August 2006 and forms the basis of formulation of the proposed integrated energy policy. The policy document proposes an approach for optional supply and utilization of energy and the creation of a competitive energy market in India. A meeting of full Planning Commission was chaired by Prime Minister in September 2008 to discuss the draft on Integrated Energy Policy for the country.

Forest cover in country

1127. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forest cover in the country is receding every year; and

(b) if so, the steps that are being taken to increase the forest cover in the country to restore the eco-system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir. No such decrease in the forest cover in the country has been reported. The assessment of the forest cover in the country is made by the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun on biennial basis. The forest cover in the country as per 2001, 2003 and 2005 assessments is given below:

Assessment Year	2001	2003	2005
Forest cover (In km ²)	653,898	677,816	677,088

It can be seen that the forest cover in the country has increased by 23,918 km² between 2001 and 2003 assessments, and decreased marginally by 728 km² between 2003 and 2005 assessments. The main reasons for this marginal decrease of 728 km² were the Tsunami and submergence of forest area due to construction of dams.

(b) The government of India has taken following steps to increase the forest cover:-

- (i) Allocation of the flagship "National Afforestation Plan" (NAP) scheme during the 11th Plan has been raised to Rs. 2000 crore. Till 31.03.2008, 782 forest development agency projects for treatment of total project area of 1.41 million hectares have been approved by the Ministry, under this scheme.
- (ii) In addition to the programmes of Ministry of Environment and Forests, tree planting is being encouraged in the schemes/programmes of other Ministries, for example:
 - National Bamboo Mission (Ministry of Agriculture).
 - National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Ministry of Rural Development).
 - Integrated Water-shed Management Programme.

The MoEF has also requested other Ministries, such as Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Department of AYUSH, etc to provide support of JFMCs for value addition and marketing of forest products.

- (iii) As a follow-up of the mid-term appraisal of 10th Five Year Plan, a new scheme for afforestation involving Panchayati Raj Institutions for tree planning on non-forest lands is mooted.
- (iv) Establishment to two new Eco-Task Force (ETF) battalions for eco-restoration of degraded areas was mooted by the Ministry, in addition to supporting the existing four ETF battalions.
- (v) States have been advised to constitute State-level coordination committee under chairmanships of Chief Secretaries for eliciting cooperation of all land-owning departments for contributing towards increase in forest and tree cover.

- (vi) Guidelines have been issued by Government of India on 15-12-2004 to the States for rationalization of regulatory provision about felling and transport of trees grown on private lands, so as to promote tree planting by the masses.
- (vii) State Government and Union Territory Administrations have been requested to formulate and implement a comprehensive media plan to create awareness about tree planting.

Encroachment on forest land

1128. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of encroachment on forest lands as on 1.1.2008, State-wise;
- (b) the actions taken for eviction of encroachments during the last five years; and
- (c) the action that are taken by his Ministry to claims of tribals on forest land for agriculture activities as per the recent Act passed by Parliament ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY) : (a) As per reports received from State Forest Departments, the total area of forest under encroachment in the country is 16.96 lakh hectares. The State-wise details are given in the Statement. (*See below*)

(b) The actions to evict the encroachers and safeguard the forest land are taken by the respective State/UT Governments in accordance with extant Acts/Rules. Some of the steps to safeguard the forest land from the encroachers includes—

- Demarcation of forest areas by fixing of boundary pillars.
- Regular inspection by field staff.
- Establishment of chowkies in forest areas.
- Strengthening of communication system.
- Active involvement of local communities through Joint Forest Management institution in protection and management of forest resources etc.

(c) The responsibility for implementing the provisions of the Act lies with the State/Union Territory Governments. The Ministry of Environment and Forests and Ministry of Tribal Affairs have issued directions to State/Union Territory Governments with special emphasis on speedy implementation of the Act, In addition, this Ministry has taken following steps—

- A simplified procedure to be followed for forest diversion cases to facilitate implementation of Section 3 (2) of the Act, Which deals with creation of public facilities for the right holders, has been finalized.
- Guidelines for identification and declaration of critical wildlife habitats have been circulated to all the States/Union Territories.