

for the forest cover of the country as per the last three biennial assessments published in State of Forest Reports are given below:

(Area in Km ²)		
1999	2001	2003
637,293	675,538	678,333

(b) No such report has been received from States and Union Territories.

(c) Does not arise.

Decrease in forest cover

†1861. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the forest area is decreasing rapidly in some States of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that scattered forests have taken place of dense forests in some of the States causing unfriendly atmosphere for wild animals;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of efforts being made by the Government to expand the forest area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. The forest area of the country as compiled by Forest Survey of India (FSI) from State Forest Departments and duly published in State of Forest Report (SFR)-2003, does not show any decrease. However, in comparison with the Forest Cover Assessment of 2001, SFR-2003 reveals an overall increase of 2,795 Sq. Km. in forest cover of the country.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) As per the State of Forest Report (SFR)-2003, the dense forest has decreased whereas open forest has increased resulting into an overall increase of 2,795 Sq. Km. of forest cover in the country. No unfriendly atmosphere for wild animals has been reported from the States/ Union Territories. Moreover, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries have been created to take focused protection of wildlife in these areas under the provisions of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

(d) The efforts being made by the Government to expand the forest area in the country are:

- (i) Implementation of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining forest land through two-tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level.
- (ii) Management measures like working of forests according to approved Working Plans, Forests Development Agencies and eliciting people's participation; through Joint Forest Management (JFM).
- (iii) Providing assistance to the States/Union Territories under Centrally Sponsored schemes and externally aided projects for protection and conservation of forest areas and the habitats for wild animals.
- (iv) Guidelines for rationalizing of felling and transit regulations for trees species grown on non-forest private lands to promote large scale afforestation in non-forest areas.
- (v) State Government and Union Territory Administrations have been requested to formulate and implement a comprehensive Media Plan to create mass awareness about tree planting.

Loss of manpower due to illness

1862. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted regarding the loss of manpower in the country due to illness by various diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and