

Forest area

754. SHRI K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the present estimated forest area;
- (b) the area brought under forest, both wild & social forestry during the last five years; and
- (c) the details of projections for the current Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Forest cover of India is 6,90,900 ha. as per India State of Forest Report, 2009 published by Forest Survey of India which is 21.02% of India's total geographical area.

(b) The targets for afforestation/tree planting are being monitored annually under 20 Point Programme in the country. The targets, and achievements under 20 Point Programme during the last five years are given below in Table-I:

Table I

(Area in million ha.)

Year	Notional Area of Private Land Planting		Area covered under Public and Forest Lands	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
2005-06	0.63	0.51	1.63	1.48
2006-07	0.76	0.66	1.85	1.66
2007-08*	-	-	1.86	1.54
2008-09	-	-	1.77	1.67
2009-10	-	-	1.81	1.39**

* 20 Point Programme revised in the XIth Five Year Plan and now monitoring of Planting in Public and Forest lands is only undertaken.

** Figures upto February 2010 (01.04.2009 to 28.02.2010)

(c) The targets of afforestation/tree planting are fixed every year. The target and achievement during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are given in Table-I. The targets for afforestation/tree planting fixed for the year 2010-11 under 20 Point Programme is 1.82 million ha.

Mission Clean Ganga

755. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has committed "Mission Clean Ganga";
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds spent, so far, on cleaning Ganga; and
- (d) the involvement of NGOs and environmentalists, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Central Government has constituted the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) on 20th February, 2009. In the first meeting of the NGRBA held on 5th October 2009 it was resolved that under 'Mission Clean Ganga', it will be ensured that by the year 2020 no untreated municipal sewage or industrial effluent flows into Ganga. Sewage treatment capacity of 1025 million litres per day (mld) has been created under Ganga Action Plan against about 3000 mld sewage being generated in the towns along Ganga. An estimated investment of Rs. 15,000 crore over the next 10 years will be required to create the necessary treatment and sewerage infrastructure, to be shared suitably between Centre and States. In the first phase, 33 projects of Rs 1447.59 crores have been sanctioned under the NGRBA. These include sewer networks, sewage treatment plants and sewage pumping stations, electric crematoria, dhobi ghats, community toilets, development and beautification of river front, resuscitation of canals joining Ganga, public participation programme & awareness campaigns in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Uttarakhand. The Central Government has so far released Rs 109.74 crores to these four State Governments for the projects sanctioned under Mission Clean Ganga.

(d) Experts in the field of environment have been nominated as members of the NGRBA. The States have been asked to involve NGOs in monitoring the implementation of projects and for community mobilization.