

**Funds for protection of forests and afforestation in Rajasthan**

†1274. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of total areas in Rajasthan that has been declared forest land;
- (b) whether there has been an increase in forest area during the last five years and if so, the percentage thereof; and
- (c) the funds allocated by the Central Government to the State Government for the protection of forests and afforestation during the last five years and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As per India State of Forest Report, 2009 the forest area in the State of Rajasthan is 32,639 km<sup>2</sup> viz 9.54% of the State's geographical area.

(b) The forest area in the State was 32,488 km<sup>2</sup> as per State of Forest Report, 2005 and the forest area of the State has increased marginally by 151 sq.kms in the last five years.

(c) The scheme-wise details of funds provided by Government of India to the Rajasthan State for Protection of forests and afforestation alongwith result during the last 5 years is given in Statement.

**Statement**

*State-wise details of the funds provided by the Government to Rajasthan state for protection of forests and afforestation during last ten years*

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	Year	Sanctioned area (ha.) for Afforestation	Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	National Afforestation	2005-06	5090	726.00
2.	Programme	2006-07	600	562.05
3.		2007-08	400	249.68
4.		2008-09	9500	731.93
5.		2009-10	6800	1066.50

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Year	Amount Released (Rs. in Lakhs)	Amount Utilized (Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	Intensification of Forest	2005-06	100.00	79.38
2.	Management Scheme	2006-07	100.07	98.81
3.		2007-08	99.692	115.38
4.		2008-09	150.408	156.58
5.		2009-10	149.98	119.61

**Environmental clearance to Polavaram projects in Andhra Pradesh**

1275. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether environmental clearance was given to Polavaram project in Andhra Pradesh before its start;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any fresh issues are being raised in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Environmental Clearance to the Polavaram Multipurpose Project in Andhra Pradesh was granted on 25.10.2005 after following due procedure as under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994.

(c) and (d) The construction of embankments on rivers Sileru and Saberi in Chhattisgarh and Orissa have been proposed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to avoid submergence in these two States. This aspect was not considered at the time of granting environmental clearance in 2005. This issue was, therefore, considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee at its meeting held in February, 2009. While the Expert Appraisal Committee noted the technical feasibility in respect of construction of bunds/embankments on Saberi and Sileru, it was pointed-out, that under Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, public hearing is required to be undertaken in Orissa and Chhattisgarh for the construction of embankments. This is yet to be completed.