

(Area in km<sup>2</sup>)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Assessment years		
		2003	2005	2007
1.	Andhra Pradesh	329	354	353
2.	Orissa	203	217	221
3.	Tamil Nadu	35	36	39
4.	West Bengal	2120	2136	2152

As would be noted, there has generally been a net increase in mangrove forest cover on the east coast of India.

(d) and (e) Scientists from Wildlife Institute of India have visited the Coringa areas and the mangroves at the Godavari estuary a number of times for their research work. The National Committee on Mangroves and Coral Reefs also visited the Coringa Mangroves on 30th September 2009.

#### Incidents of maritime pollution

2069. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of various difficulties in prosecuting those responsible for incidents of maritime pollution;

(b) whether the Public Liability Insurance Act only provides paltry reimbursement to the victims;

(c) whether this issue has been taken up for review; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 have provisions for taking action against those responsible for incidents of maritime pollution. This requires properly identifying persons/ships responsible for specific incidents of maritime pollution.

(b) to (d) The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 provides for immediate relief to persons affected by accidents occurring while handling of hazardous chemicals notified under the Act, on a "no fault basis". Only death or injury to persons other than workmen and damage to private property

are covered under the Act. The maximum relief in case of death or injury is Rs.25,000/-, which is in addition to reimbursement of medical expenses up to a maximum of Rs. 12,500. The maximum relief for damage to private property is Rs. 6,000. The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 also has provisions for compensation to the victims who suffers damage on account of oil spillage from oil tankers in Indian waters up to the Exclusive Economic Zone of India. The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 has been enacted for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons, property and for restoration of the environment.

#### **System of international consultation and analysis**

2070. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India has suggested a system of international consultation and analysis at Cancun's Mexico Ministerial Conference recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the Indian ICA proposal stresses that it would be a facilitative process for transparency and accountability and with no punitive implications; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) India participated in an informal Pre-Conference of Parties (Pre-CoP) meeting of Ministers of Environment convened in Mexico City on November 4-5, 2010 by Mexico, chair of the forthcoming Conference of Parties (CoP-16) scheduled at Cancun. In the meeting, views were exchanged on various issues relating to climate change negotiations including possible outcomes at Cancun. One of the issues discussed related to Measurement, Report and Verification (MRV) and international consultation and analysis of actions taken by various countries to mitigate climate change.

As a part of the informal discussions, India has expressed its view on various aspects of international consultation and analysis including its form, periodicity, content and the process for consideration. India has stated that international consultation and analysis will be a facilitative process for transparency and accountability and that it will not have any punitive implications of any sort.

#### **Forest cover in Assam**

2071. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: