

(c) The approved area and funds released under the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) during last three years 2008-09 to 2010-11 are as follows:

Year	Approved area (in hectares)	Released Amount (Rs. in crores)
2008-09	173435	345.62
2009-10	103556	318.17
2010-11	57126	309.99

Assistance to HP under Integrated Development of Wildlife Scheme

11. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount released by the Central Government to the State Government of Himachal Pradesh (HP) under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Integrated Development of Wild life Habitats during 2010-11; and

(b) The quantum of amount allocated under the scheme for Himachal Pradesh during Twelfth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) An amount of Rs. 253.80 lakh was released to the State Government of Himachal Pradesh as assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitants' during the financial year 2010-11.

(b) The allocation under the scheme during the Twelfth Five Year Plan for the State of Himachal Pradesh has not yet been finalized.

Decline in forest cover of the country

12. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Forest Survey of India (FSI) Report, 2011 the forest cover of the country has declined in comparison to its 2009 report;

(b) if so, the name of States where such decline has taken place and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps that the Ministry proposes to take to address the issue and thereby increase the forest cover to 33 per cent as mentioned by National Forest Commission 2006 and Eleventh Five Year Plan documents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. According to the Forest Survey of India (FSI) Report, 2011, the forest cover of the country has declined by 367 km² in comparison to its 2009 report.

(b) The names of States where there is decline in forest cover along with the reasons for decline in forest cover is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) The ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country. The Scheme is implemented through a decentralized mechanism of State Forest Development Agency (SFDA) at State level, Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at Village level. As on 31.10.2011, 800 FDA projects have been approved in 28 States in the country to treat an area of 18.32 lakh hectares since inception of the Scheme in 2002. Further, the funds released by the Ministry, for strengthening of forest protection, infrastructure, fire protection, demarcation of forest boundaries, construction of facilities for frontline staff and communication under the Intensification of Forest Management Scheme (IIFMS), has contributed towards increase in the forest cover.

Statement

States/UTs-wise decline in forest cover in the country and reasons therefor

Sl.No.	States	Change from ISFR 2009 (KM ²)	Major reasons for loss
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-281	Harvesting of short rotation crops and forest cover loss due to encroachment of forest land.
2.	Gujarat	-1	Harvesting of crops in outside forest areas, private felling in the TOF areas.
3.	Kerala	-24	Rotational harvesting of Eucalyptus, Teak, <i>Acacia mangium</i> etc.
4.	Manipur	-190	Shifting cultivation practices and biotic pressure, reduction in the rotation period (cycle) of the shifting cultivation.
5.	Meghalaya	-46	Shifting cultivation practices and biotic pressure, reduction in the rotation period (cycle) of the shifting cultivation.
6.	Mizoram	-66	Shifting cultivation practices and biotic pressure, reduction in the rotation period (cycle) of the shifting cultivation. Vast stretches of the cleared forest cover areas have been converted into horticultural crops.

1	2	3	4
7.	Nagaland	-146	Shifting cultivation practices and biotic pressure, reduction in the rotation period (cycle) of the shifting cultivation.
8.	Tripura	-8	Shifting cultivation practices and biotic pressure, reduction in the rotation period (cycle) of the shifting cultivation. Clearing of rubber plantation.
9.	Arunachal Pradesh	-74	Shifting cultivation practices and biotic pressure, reduction in the rotation period (cycle) of the shifting cultivation.
10.	Assam	-19	Shifting cultivation practices and biotic pressure, reduction in the rotation period (cycle) of the shifting cultivation.
11.	Maharashtra	-4	Nominal loss owing to diversion of forest land
12.	Chhattisgarh	-4	for non forestry purposes, area under
13.	Uttar Pradesh	-3	submergence (pondage) (Chhattisgarh)
TOTAL		-867	

Census of tigers

†13. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has figured out the number of tigers in its annual counting at the rural level;

(b) the total number of tigers counted this year and the increase in the number of tigers throughout the country;

(c) whether poaching rackets were busted this year and the number of tigers killed by such rackets; and

(d) the necessary steps proposed to be taken by Government to increase the number of tigers and for checking the poaching rackets to save the tigers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) As per the recent all India estimation of tigers (2010) done once in every four years, the country level tiger population has shown an increasing trend with a population estimate of 1706, lower and upper limits being 1520 and 1909 respectively, as compared to the last country level estimation of 2006, with an estimate of 1411, lower and upper limits

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.