

Non-utilisation of Funds Meant for Drinking Water Schemes

2025. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether instances of non-utilisation of funds allotted for drinking water schemes to the States were reported to the Ministry;
- (b) if so, the names of the States which failed to utilise the funds allotted for drinking water schemes and action taken against them;
- (c) whether any penal provision exists for defaulting States; and
- (d) if so, the action taken against the defaulting States?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation administers through the States the centrally sponsored scheme, National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for providing financial and technical assistance to the States to supplement their efforts to provide drinking water to the rural areas. The funds are allocated to States under NRDWP as per approved criteria. The allocated funds are released in two instalments to States based on their utilization of available funds. In 2011-12 due to low utilization of funds by Uttarakhand, the second installment of NRDWP funds could not be released to the State. Unspent funds released under NRDWP are carried over to the next financial year. However, as per the NRDWP guidelines funds carried over in excess of 10% of fund released in the previous year to the States is deducted from the 2nd installment of the next year. In 2011-12 such deduction was made in the case of release to Karnataka State amounting to Rs. 10.63 crore. No other penal provision is imposed on States who are unable to utilize the entire available funds.

Decrease in the Forest Cover in the Country

2026. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a decrease in the forest cover of the country in the last few years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the loss of forest cover, State-wise;
- (c) whether there have been any noticeable effects on the environment as a result of such decrease in forest cover;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps Government is putting in place to mitigate the loss of forest cover in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the latest 'India State of Forest Report 2011' (ISFR 2011), the forest cover of the country has declined by 367 square kilometer with respect to previous assessment as given in India State of Forest Report, 2009.

(b) As per India State of Forest Report 2011, 13 States / UTs have shown decrease in forest cover to the extent of 867 square kilometre in the States such as Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram etc. 15 States have registered aggregate increase of 500 sq. km. in their forest cover with Punjab leading with increase of 100 sq. km. The names of States where there is decline in forest cover along with the reasons for decline in forest cover is given in Statement *see below*:

(c) & (d) The marginal decline of 367 sq. km. of forest cover in the country would not have any significant effect in environment as a whole.

(e) The following initiatives have been taken by the Government to expand forest and tree cover in the country:

- (i) 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 decentralize 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 levels. As on 31-3-2012, 800 FDA projects have been approved in 28 States in the country to treat an area of 18.86 lakh hectares since inception of the Scheme in 2002.
- (ii) The Ministry release funds under the Intensification of Forest Management Scheme (IIFMS), for strengthening of forest protection such as infrastructure, fire protection, demarcation of forest boundaries, construction of facilities for frontline staff and communication which has contributed towards increase in the forest cover.
- (iii) Under the National Action Plan on Climate Change announced by the Central Government, a National Mission for a 'Green India' has been mooted in which quality to improve the degraded forests along with afforestation are major objectives.
- (iv) Under the award of 13th Finance Commission, a grant of Rs. 5000 crores has been allocated as "Forest Grants" to the states on the basis of their forest cover in the State in relation to the national average. It has been further weighted by the quality of the forests in each state as measured by density.
- (v) Afforestation activities are undertaken under various External Aided Projects by 12 States.

Statement*States/UTs wise decline in forest cover in the country and reasons therefore*

S.No.	States	Change from ISFR 2009 (km ²)	Major reasons for loss
1.	Andhra Pradesh	–281	Management interventions like harvesting of short rotation crops followed by new regeneration / plantations, forest clearance in some enroached areas.
2.	Manipur	– 190	Decrease in forest cover in the State is due to shortening of shifting cultivation cycle and biotic pressure.
3.	Nagaland	– 146	Decrease in forest cover in the State is due to shortening of shifting cultivation cycle and biotic pressure.
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	–74	Change in forest cover in the state is because of shifting cultivation and biotic pressure.
5.	Mizoram	– 66	Decrease in forest cover in the State is due to shortening of shifting cultivation cycle and biotic pressure.
6.	Meghalaya	– 46	Decrease in forest cover in the State is due to shortening of shifting cultivation cycle and biotic pressure.
7.	Kerala	– 24	Decrease in forest cover in the State is due to rotational felling of Eucalyptus, Teak, <i>Acacia mangium</i> , rubber and shade bearing trees in the gardens.
8.	Assam	– 19	Decrease in forest cover is mainly attributed to illicit felling, encroachments in insurgency affected areas and shifting cultivation practices.
9.	Tripura	– 8	Decrease in forest cover in the state is due to clearings for rubber plantations and shifting cultivation practices.
10.	Maharashtra	– 4	

1	2	3	4
11.	Chhattisgarh	– 4	Submergence of forest areas in catchments of the dams.
12.	Uttar Pradesh	– 3	
13.	Gujarat	– 1	Decrease in forest cover in the state is due to private felling in the Tree Outside Forests areas.
14.	Chandigarh	– 0.22	
TOTAL		– 866.22	

Establishment of Recycling Units for Mercuric Toxic Waste

2027. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has estimated the details of the amount of toxic mercuric waste generated by the use of mercury lamps including Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) and Fluorescent Tube Light (FTL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has issued guidelines to States asking them to encourage establishment of recycling units for mercuric toxic waste;

(d) if so, the names of States issued guidelines in this regard;

(e) whether Government has sought any report on the status of the work;

(f) whether Government plans to frame new policies by providing incentives for safe disposal to the end consumers; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (g) MoEF has set up an Inter-Ministerial Group, comprising of representatives from the Ministry of Power, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Central Pollution Control Board, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Electric Lamps and Components and Manufacturer's Association of India (ELCOMA), and NGOs (TERI, Toxics Link) in order to establish a functional framework for management of mercury containing CFLs/FTLs in the country. MoEF has initiated a "Master Plan Study for collection, recycling and safe disposal of end of life mercury bearing lamps and associated electronics". This study is a public-private initiative with an objective to inventorise base line status of use, recovery and disposal of fluorescent lamps, international best practices, management options and proposed institutional framework.