

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has taken any action on this proposal;

(c) whether it is a fact that although the Hon'ble Minister and the Secretary of the Department have agreed in principle, yet the scheme is not formally approved; and

(d) if so, by when the scheme is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Yes Sir, the State Government of Gujarat has submitted "Green Credit" Scheme to the Ministry of Environment and Forests for approval.

(b) The proposal has been examined in the Ministry and requires approval of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India

(c) and (d) No, the Secretary and the Hon'ble Minister have not agreed to the proposal.

Decline in forests cover

1423. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that India's forest cover has declined to 23 per cent of its land area according to latest estimates;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps Government proposes to arrest this decline and increase the forest cover;

(d) whether the afforestation schemes have been a failure due to lack of monitoring and most of the saplings have died in the recent years; and

(e) the remedial steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) As per the India State of Forest Report 2011, the total forest and tree cover is 23.81% of geographical area of the country. The forest cover of the country has decreased marginally by 367 sq. km. as compared to the previous assessment published 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 kilometer in the States whose details are given in Statement. (See below) alongwith the reasons. There is also an increase of 500 sq. km of forest cover in the States of Rajasthan, Punjab, Jharkhand, Orissa and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. So, effectively there is net decline of forest cover to the tune of 367 sq. km.

(c) The Government of India has taken various initiatives to expand forest

and tree cover in the country. 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 levels.

Besides NAP, various steps taken to arrest decline and increase the forest cover in country include:

- XIIIth Finance Commission has recommended Rs. 5000 crore for five years starting from 2010-11 for conservation and development of forests;
 - Additional Central assistance of Rs. 81.66 Crores has been released to the States during 2009-10 for Restoration and Regeneration of Forest Cover.
 - Tree planting is also an approved activity under MGNREGA, and other schemes of Central and State Governments.
 - The National Mission for a Green India has been launched, as one of the eight Mission under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. The Mission focuses on enhancing ecosystem services and carbon sink through afforestation and eco restoration of 10 million ha. of forest and non forest lands over 12th and 13th Plan period.
- (i) 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.
- (ii) 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.
- (iii) Afforestation activities are undertaken under various External Aided Projects by 12 States.

(d) and (e) No. Sir. Afforestation scheme such as NAP, as indicated in reply to part (c) of the question, has covered an area of 18.32 lakhs hectares under afforestation since inception of the scheme in 2002.

Afforestation on farm lands is also done through schemes of other Ministries viz. National Bamboo Mission, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP and FPR), Reclamation and Development of Alkali and Acid

Soils (RADAS) and Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSA) sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture. Tree planting on private land is also taken up under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.

Statement

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

Sl.No	States	Change from ISFR 2009(Km ²)	Major reasons for loss
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	-281	Management interventions like harvesting of short rotation crops followed by new regeneration/ plantations, forest clearance in some encroached 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

1	2	3	4
			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 cultivations practices.
10	Maharashtra	-4	-
11	Chhattisgarh	-4	Submergence of forest areas in catchments of the dams.
12.	UttarPradesh	-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	

Size of the Indian economy

1424. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present size of the Indian economy *vis-a-vis* other developed countries of the world;

(b) whether as per the calculations of the Centre for Economics and Business Research, India at the end of 2010 now stands at 9th position in terms of the largest economies of the world;

(c) whether as per the Centre for Economics and Business Research, India would become the 5th largest economy in the world by 2020; and

(d) the steps Ministry is planning to take to compete with its counterparts like Brazil, China, Japan to achieve the 5th position by 2020?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEEHA): (a) The share of different countries in world GDP based on purchasing power parity (ppp) in 2010 is as under: