

State Forest Development Agency (FDA) the Union Government has not sanctioned any funds towards the advance action work for taking up afforestation during the monsoon season in 2010-11;

(b) the number of proposals related to State Forest Development Agency pending with the Union Government at present and the reasons therefore; and

(c) the time by which the proposals are likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) A consolidated proposal under the National Afforestation Programme Scheme was submitted by the State Forest Development Agency (SFDA), Gujarat to the Union Government for the year 2010-11 which has been sanctioned for Rs. 33.00 Cr. including the cost of advance action work for 1760 hectare area, to be afforested during the monsoon season.

(b) No proposal related to Gujarat State Forest Development Agency is pending with the Union Government at present.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Forest Report, 2011**

†1408. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the Forest Report, 2011 having registered a 5 per cent increase in the forest cover country's 24 per cent land is covered by forests;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether it is also fact that out of this forest cover 28 to 30 per cent forests are degraded forests;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether it is a fact that there are different definitions of forest in the country, if so, the definitions of each category of forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2011, the Forest and Tree Cover of the country is 23.81% of the geographical area of the country. The forest cover of the country has registered a marginal decline of 0.05% as compared to the previous assessment published in ISFR 2009.

(c) and (d) In the India State of Forest Report, the forests are classified into three categories such as Very Dense Forest (VDF), Moderately Dense Forest (MDF)

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and Open Forests not as degraded forests. The area covered by Very Dense Forest (VDF) is 83,471 km<sup>2</sup> (2.54%), that with Moderately Dense Forest (MDF) is 320,736 km<sup>2</sup> (9.76%) and Open Forests 287,820 km<sup>2</sup> (8.75%). The details of Open Forest Cover State-wise is given in Statement (*See below*)

(e) Forests are defined legally in accordance to the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927 such as Reserve Forests, Protected Forests and village Forests

However, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has extended the scope of forest and "forest" must be understood according to its dictionary meaning. This description cover all statutorily recognized forests, whether designated as reserved protected or otherwise, including any area recorded as forest in the Government record irrespective of the ownership, for the purpose of Section 2 (i) of the Forest Conservation Act.

In India State of Forest Report, the different categories of forests are defined for assessment of forest cover on the basis of tree canopy density which are as follows:-

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Very Dense Forest       | All lands with tree canopy density of 70% and above    |
| 2. Moderately Dense Forest | All lands with tree canopy density between 40% and 70% |
| 3. Open Forest             | All lands with tree canopy density between 10%- 40%    |

#### **Statement**

##### *Details of Open forest cover in States / UTs in India*

State/UT	Geographical Area	(area in sq km)
		Open Forest
Andhra Pradesh	275069	19297
Arunachal Pradesh	83743	15023
Assam	78438	14825
Bihar	9416	3334
Chattisgarh	135191	16600
Delhi	1483	120
Goa	3702	1091
Gujarat	196022	9012
Haryana	44212	1124
Himachal Pradesh	55673	5074
Jammu and Kashmir	222236	9639
Jharkhand	79714	10470

State/UT	Geographical Area	Open Forest
Karnataka	191791	14238
Kerala	38863	6464
Madhya Pradesh	308245	36074
Maharashtra	307713	21095
Manipur	22327	10209
Meghalaya	22429	7067
Mizoram	21081	12897
Nagaland	16579	7097
Orissa	155707	20477
Punjab	50362	1028
Rajasthan	342239	11567
Sikkim	7096	698
Tamil Nadu	130058	10356
Tripura	10486	3182
Uttar Pradesh	240928	8153
Uttarakhand	53483	5567
West Bengal	88752	5365
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8249	547
Chandigarh	114	6
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	491	97
Daman and Diu	112	5.53
Lakshadweep	32	9.88
Puducherry	480	14.69
GRAND TOTAL	3287263	287820

#### **Eco-development activities in the country**

1409. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of degraded forest areas and lands adjoining the forest areas, National Parks, sanctuaries and other protected areas, across the country;
- (b) the details of fund earmarked for promoting afforestation, tree planting, ecological restoration and eco-development activities in the country;
- (c) the details of area/land covered till date under afforestation scheme; and