

Statement

*Details of amount allocated to Rajasthan by Central Government
for development of forests*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Funds Released by Government of India		
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Forestry Sector				
1.	Sambhar wetland Project	91.87	120.57	74.35
2.	Intensification of Forest Management Scheme	149.98	103.76	161.15
3.	Tiger Project Ranthambore	10560.00	250.33	0.60
4.	Tiger Project, Sariska	134.17	2118.60	-
5.	Development of Ghana Bird Sanctuary	69.04	61.24	14.10
6.	Maintenance of other Sanctuaries	393.58	258.77	257.31
7.	Development of DNP	34.13	28.05	20.13
GRAND TOTAL		11432.77	2941.32	527.64

Coal mining in forest areas in Madhya Pradesh

506. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given permission to any company to start coal mining operations in the forests of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the coal mining will affect the environment and wildlife in the forest area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) Use of forest land for non-forest purpose, including coal mining, requires prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Central Government so far

accorded 59 final approvals involving diversion of 10,416.57 hectares of forest land and 15 in-principle approvals involving diversion of 3,360.164 hectares of forest land in Madhya Pradesh for coal mining.

(c) Coal mining does affect the environment, forests and wildlife in and around the coal mines. Central Government therefore, while according approvals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for mining projects stipulates appropriate measures to mitigate impacts of mining on forests, wildlife and environment. Important among them are transfer and mutation of equivalent non-forest land in favour of State Forest Department (SFD) for creation of compensatory afforestation from the funds to be provided by the user agency; notification of such non-forest land transferred in favour of the SFD as Reserved Forest/Protected Forest; realization of Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land from the concerned user agency for execution of appropriate activities for conservation, protection and management of forests and wildlife, realization of funds from the user agencies for preparation and execution of appropriate plans for conservation and development of wildlife in and around the forest land proposed to be diverted for non-forest purposes.

Loss of forest cover

507. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a loss of 367 sq. km. of forest cover between 2007 and 2009;

(b) if so, whether implementation of our afforestation and conservation Programmes is not yielding the envisaged results of expanding green cover; and

(c) whether the loss of 367 km happened in a few States or the alarming situation is equal percentage-wise divided amongst traditionally forest cover States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) As per the India State of Forest Report 2011 there is a net loss of 367 Km² of forest cover between the 2011 assessment (data period pertaining to 2008-2009) and 2009 assessment (data period pertaining to 2006-2007).

(b) and (c) The implementation of afforestation and conservation programmes for expanding green cover has in fact contributed towards increase in the forest