

Amendments to the Wild Life Protection Act

1902. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government will bring in further amendments to the Wild Life Protection Act giving more importance to the Gram Sabhas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the same; and
- (c) the ways in which these amendments are expected to influence the conservation of wildlife?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj had suggested for amendments in certain sections of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for involvement of the Gram Sabhas in the Scheduled Areas, in the process of declaration and management of Protected Areas. The Ministry of Environment and Forests was in agreement with the suggestions as it brings in more community participation in conservation of wildlife and its habitats in the country. The Cabinet Committee has approved the said proposal in its Meeting held on 4th October 2012.

Decrease in forest areas due to industrialization

†1903. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent of decrease in forests areas due to globalisation, industrialization, urbanisation and harnessing of coal mines during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (b) the creation of new forest areas through afforestation during the last three years and in the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) The forest cover assessment is carried out biennially by the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun. The details of last two assessments as reported in the *i.e.* India State of Forest Report-2009 and India State of Forest Report-2011 are given in the Statement I (*See* below).

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) 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. The state-wise details of area targeted for afforestation under National Afforestation Programme (NAP) scheme during last three years (2009-10 to 2011-12) are given in the Statement II (See below). Areas for the current year are yet to be approved.

Statement I

Forest cover in States/UTs in India between as per the last two assessments

(Area in sq Km)				
State/UT	Geographical Areas	Forest Cover Assessment 2011 (data period 2008-09)	Forest cover 2009 as Revised (data period 2006-07)	Forest cover change between 2009 and 2011 Assessments
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	275069	46389	46670	- 281
Arunachal Pradesh	83743	67410	67484	- 74
Assam	78438	27673	27692	- 19
Bihar	94163	6845	6804	41
Chhattisgarh	135191	55674	55678	- 4
Delhi	1483	176	177	0
Goa	3702	2219	2212	7
Gujarat	196022	14619	14620	-1
Haryana	44212	1608	1594	14
Himachal Pradesh	55673	14679	14668	11
Jammu and Kashmir	222236	22539	22537	2

1	2	3	4	5
Jharkhand	79714	22977	22894	83
Karnataka	191791	36194	36190	4
Kerala	38863	17300	17324	- 24
Madhya Pradesh	308245	77700	77700	0
Maharashtra	307713	50646	50650	-4
Manipur	22327	17090	17280	- 190
Meghalaya	22429	17275	17321	- 46
Mizoram	21081	19117	19183	- 66
Nagaland	16579	13318	13464	- 146
Odisha	155707	48903	48855	48
Punjab	50362	1764	1664	100
Rajasthan	342239	16087	16036	51
Sikkim	7096	3359	3359	0
Tamil Nadu	130058	23625	23551	74
Tripura	10486	7977	7985	-8
Uttar Pradesh	240928	14338	14341	-3
Uttarakhand	53483	24496	24495	1
West Bengal	88752	12995	12994	1
Andman and Nicobar Islands	8249	6724	6662	62
Chandigarh	114	17	17	0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	491	211	211	0
Daman and Diu	112	6	6	0
Lakshadweep	32	27	26	1
Puducherry	480	50	50	0
GRAND TOTAL	3287263	692027	692,394	-367

Statement II*Details of State-wise and Year-wise area approved under NAP*

(Area in ha)				
Sl.No.	State	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4182	2341	5453
2.	Bihar	3475	0	5647
3.	Chhattisgarh	8450	1177	8370
4.	Goa	0	0	0
5.	Gujarat	4920	1760	11150
6.	Haryana	5526	1100	3145
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1255	1646	2566
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	3550	0	4857
9.	Jharkhand	9980	0	4815
10.	Karnataka	2200	0	9523
11.	Kerala	1095	666	2947
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6188	13000	10219
13.	Maharashtra	7219	0	7934
14.	Odisha	1745	0	7410
15.	Punjab	547	0	625
16.	Rajasthan	6800	400	3300
17.	Tamil, Nadu	4025	0	2984
18.	Uttar Pradesh	9664	3340	12435
19.	Uttarakhand	4065	5167	5058
20.	West Bengal	615	2815	2360
Total (Other States)		85501	33412	110798

Sl.No.	State	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	1750	3125	0
22.	Assam	3625	0	0
23.	Manipur	1525	3599	4250
24.	Meghalaya	800	4800	3930
25.	Mizoram	2700	2370	2600
26.	Nagaland	4050	2000	8000
27.	Sikkim	2225	1549	3730 .
28.	Tripura	1380	6271	6220
Total (NE States)		18055	23714	28730
TOTAL		103556	57126	139528

Cleaning of Ganga River

†1904. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by Government so far to make the river Ganga pollution free;

(b) the target date set by Government in this regard and the details of the amount released to the State Governments; and

(c) the details of the amount spent by the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) So far, total expenditure of Rs. 1436 crore (including State share) has been incurred on river Ganga under Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase I and II and National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) programme, of which Rs. 930 crore is under GAP and Rs. 506 crore (as of October, 2012) is under NGRBA programme.

(b) As per the decision of the NGRBA no untreated municipal sewage or

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.