

[9 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) the reaction of Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The details are as under:-

(i) Andhra Pradesh:- The project objectives are to reduce rural poverty through improved forest management with community participation. The cost is Rs. 653 crores. Period is 5 years and is already under implementation since 2002-03.

(ii) Jharkhand:- The proposed objectives are to help forest dwellers in exploring community driven approaches to natural resource management and to pilot strategic partnership between communities, the forest department and other development agents. The State Government has sent a proposal of US\$ 20,03,500 for Japan Social Development Fund and borrowers contribution for the preparation of project and capacity building etc. which has been concurred by the World Bank and the Ministry of Finance.

(iii) Madhya Pradesh:- The objective is reduction of poverty in forest fringe areas through sustainable forest management. The State Government has sent proposal for grant under Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) to the tune of US \$ 2,12,100 for village level capacity development for implementation of Community Forest Management in Madhya Pradesh to the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

(iv) Assam:- The World Bank has just initiated discussions with the Forest Department of Assam on this issue.

(c) The Andhra Pradesh project is already under implementation. This Ministry supports other three proposals.

Forest cover

†115. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of density of the forest cover across the country, State-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether there is any proposal of giving Oxygen royalty as a special incentive to those States having more than fifty per cent of the forest cover of their total area; and

(c) if not, the way in which Government propose to give incentive to the above category of States for conserving forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The State-wise details of density of the forest cover as per State of Forest Report, 2001 are enclosed as Statement (See *below*).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Financial assistance is provided under various Centrally sponsored schemes to States and Union Territories for conservation of forest and wildlife. The basis of allocation of assistance in demand put forward by States, scrutiny of their proposals, funds available with the Ministry and above all the progress of utilization of previous allocations made by the Ministry. Payment of oxygen royalty is not a consideration.

Statement

State-wise forest cover as per State of Forest Report, 2001

(Area in km²)

State/UT	Geographic Area	Dense*	Forest Cover		Per cent
			Open**	Total	
Andhra Pradesh	275,069	25,827	18,810	44,637	16.23
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	53,932	14,113	68,045	81.25
Assam	78,438	15,830	11,884	27,714	35.33
Bihar	94,163	3,372	2,348	5,720	6.07
Chhatisgarh	135,191	37,880	18,568	56,448	41.75
Delhi	1,483	38	73	111	7.51
Goa	3,702	1,785	310	2,095	56.59
Gujarat	196,022	8,673	6,479	15,152	7.73
Haryana	44,212	1,139	615	1,754	3.97
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	10,429	3,931	14,360	25.79
Jammu & Kashmir	222,236	11,848	9,389	21,237	9.56
Jharkhand	79,714	11,787	10,850	22,637	28.40

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State/UT	Geographic Area	Dense*	Forest Cover		Per cent
			Open**	Total	
Karnataka	191,791	26,156	10,835	36,991	19.29
Kerala	38,863	11,772	3,788	15,560	40.04
Madhya Pradesh	308,245	44,384	32,881	77,265	25.07
Maharashtra	307,713	30,894	16,588	47,482	15.43
Manipur	22,327	5,710	11,216	16,926	75.81
Meghalaya	22,429	5,681	9,903	15,584	69.48
Mizoram	21,081	8,936	8,558	17,494	82.98
Nagaland	16,579	5,393	7,952	13,345	80.49
Orissa	155,707	27,972	20,866	48,838	31.36
Punjab	50,362	1,549	883	2,432	4.83
Rajasthan	342,239	6,322	10,045	16,367	4.78
Sikkim	7,096	2,391	802	3,193	45.00
Tamil Nadu	130,058	12,499	8,983	21,482	16.52
Tripura	10,486	3,463	3,602	7,065	67.38
Uttar Pradesh	240,928	8,965	4,781	13,746	5.71
Uttaranchal	53,483	19,023	4,915	23,938	44.76
West Bengal	88,752	6,346	4,347	10,693	12.05
A & N Islands	8,249	6,593	337	6,930	84.01
Chandigarh	114	5	4	9	7.51
Dadra & N.	491	151	68	219	44.60
Daman & Diu	112	2	4	6	5.53
Lakshadweep	32	27	0	27	85.91
Pondicherry	480	35	1	36	7.45
Grand Total	3,287,263	416,809	258,729	675,538	20.55

* More than 40 per cent density.

** Between 10 to 40 per cent density.

Imports of toxic wastes

116. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR. Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that India is becoming the world's favourite dumping ground of hazardous substances and wastes;