

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 21.12.2009**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**NATIONAL FOREST POLICY .**

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Shri Prakash Javadekar

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that, in order to protect forests the target to bring 33 per cent of land area under forest cover had been set in the National Forest Policy formulated twenty years ago in 1988;
- (b) if so, whether the target has been fulfilled;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the measures being taken by Government to fulfil the target?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d) As per the National Forest Policy, 1988 the national goal is to have a minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. In the hills and in mountainous regions, the aim is to maintain two-third of the area under such cover. According to the 'India State of Forest Report 2009' of Forest Survey of India, the forest and tree cover in the country is 78.37 million ha. in 2007, which is 23.84 % of the geographical area despite the large human and cattle population and widespread rural poverty due to which the forests of the country are subjected to enormous pressures. However, the National Afforestation Programme, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme; Additional Central Assistance for 'Accelerated Programme of Restoration and Regeneration of Forest Cover', a new State Plan Scheme; Eco-Development Force Scheme, a Central Scheme; NREGS having Afforestation/Tree Planting activities in its schedule and other Central and State Schemes help in achieving the Policy objectives.