

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 26.07.2010
ANSWERED ON
PROTECTION OF MANGROVE FORESTS .

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SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA

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

- (a) whether Government has received any demands to preserve the natural mangrove plantation on the Eastern Coast of India in Andhra Pradesh and elsewhere;
- (b) whether it is a fact that ancient bird sanctuaries are also to be protected;
- (c) whether Government has not sent so far any team to find out the encroachments and destructions of mangrove forests during the last five years; and
- (d) what steps taken to ensure that experts visit such areas immediately and plans are prepared for their protection and eviction of land grabbers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Conservation & Management of Mangroves, 100% central assistance is extended to Coastal States/UTs, who so request, for implementation of their approved Management Action Plans which comprise components such as Survey and Demarcation, Afforestation & Restoration of Mangroves, Alternate and Supplementary Livelihoods, Protection Measures, and Education & Awareness etc.

(b) Yes, Sir. In Andhra Pradesh, the Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, the Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary and Pulicat Wildlife Sanctuary are all well known coastal bird sanctuaries of the country. All these sanctuaries are home to several threatened migratory as well as resident birds. These sanctuaries are protected under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Similarly, the largest congregation of birds in Orissa is observed at the 'Chilika (Nalban) Wildlife Sanctuary' in Orissa notified under provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and protected by the Chilika Wildlife Division with cooperation from local people.

(c) The concerned State Governments and their forest departments in the eastern coast region are taking necessary precautions to avoid encroachments and destruction of the mangrove forests. Also, according to Forest Survey of India, the mangrove area of the Eastern coast States during the previous three cycles of assessments as published in the recent India State of Forest Report (2009) is reproduced below:

(Area in km²)

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No. States/UTs Assessment years
2003 2005 2007

1. Andhra Pradesh 329 354 353

2. Orissa 203 217 221

3. Tamil Nadu 35 36 39

4. West Bengal 2120 2136 2152

As would be noted, there has been a net increase in mangrove forest cover on the east coast of India.

(d) The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa and Tamil Nadu have been consulted and according to them the concerned district level officers involving departments of forest, revenue and police are taking steps regularly to evict unauthorized land grabbers from mangrove forest areas. For example, in Orissa, till date, 1322 ha. of mangrove areas have been evicted from land grabbers in Rajnagar (Wildlife) Division and Balasore (Wildlife) Division and out of that 1286 ha. of area have been covered under mangrove plantation.