

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3404
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2018

Loss of forests due to industries and encroachments

3404. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGHMAHRA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 14,000 sq.km of forest land has been lost to industrial projects and 15,000 sq.km to encroachments during the last three decades;
- (b) if so, measures taken by Government to reclaim the land;
- (c) whether compensatory afforestation compensates the loss of complex flora and fauna by creating monoculture plantations;
- (d) whether there exists a verification procedure to monitor compensatory afforestation, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the 14,000 sq.km. of lost forest has been planted afresh, if not, reasons therefor and percentage of funds set aside for afforestation?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) (b) (c) & (d) Till date 1393.63 sq. km of forest land has been diverted Since 1980 for non forestry activities in the Country under the provision of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. To compensate the loss of trees and ecosystem services, compensatory afforestation is done on non-forest and degraded forest land. The status of compensatory afforestation and compliance of other stipulation of the approval is monitored regularly through different Regional Offices and also through third party.
- (e) Till date 8150 sq. km of compensatory afforestation has been carried out in the country.
