

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 709
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2018

Forest cover under NFP-1988

709. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU:

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

- (a) whether National Forest Policy, 1988 prescribed that a minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country should be under forest or tree cover to ensure environmental stability; and
- (b) steps taken by Government to conserve/increase forest areas?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) National Forest Policy, 1988 prescribes the national goal 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 in order to prevent erosion and land degradation and to ensure the stability of the fragile eco-system.
- (b) To increase the forest area in the country, afforestation programmes are being taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and Green India Mission (GIM) being implemented by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes/funding sources such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) and Compensatory Afforestation Fund. The National Afforestation Programme is for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas through people's participation. The scheme is being 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. An amount of Rs. 3778.65 crore has been released to States to treat an area of 21.78 lakh hectares since inception of this programme in 2000-02 till 2017-18.

Further National Mission for a Green India (GIM) is one of the eight Missions outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. It aims at protecting, restoring and enhancing India's forest cover and responding to Climate Change. This Scheme is being implemented by State Government through the State Forest Development Agency, Forest Development Agency and Gram Panchayat/ Gram Sabha, and the various Committees set up by it at village level.
