

State/UT	Geographical Area	Open Forest
Karnataka	191791	14238
Kerala	38863	6464
Madhya Pradesh	308245	36074
Maharashtra	307713	21095
Manipur	22327	10209
Meghalaya	22429	7067
Mizoram	21081	12897
Nagaland	16579	7097
Orissa	155707	20477
Punjab	50362	1028
Rajasthan	342239	11567
Sikkim	7096	698
Tamil Nadu	130058	10356
Tripura	10486	3182
Uttar Pradesh	240928	8153
Uttarakhand	53483	5567
West Bengal	88752	5365
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8249	547
Chandigarh	114	6
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	491	97
Daman and Diu	112	5.53
Lakshadweep	32	9.88
Puducherry	480	14.69
GRAND TOTAL	3287263	287820

Eco-development activities in the country

1409. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of degraded forest areas and lands adjoining the forest areas, National Parks, sanctuaries and other protected areas, across the country;

(b) the details of fund earmarked for promoting afforestation, tree planting, ecological restoration and eco-development activities in the country;

(c) the details of area/land covered till date under afforestation scheme; and

(d) by when the remaining land areas will be covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (d) Separate assessment of degraded forest land in the country as a classification has not been undertaken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. However, as per India State of Forest Report, 2011, about 4.22 million ha area is the recorded 'Scrub Forest' which is deemed as degraded. The recorded Open Forest' area of about 2878 million ha also has the tracts of degraded forest lands.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for afforestation and eco-restoration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in participatory mode under Joint Forest Management (JFM). Since the inception of NAP during 10th Plan, an area of about 1.8 million ha has been targeted till date by incurring an investment of about Rs.2762 crore.

In order to improve eco-system services and to gear up afforestation and regeneration of degraded forest tracts, an area of about 10 million ha is envisaged to be tackled under Green India Mission (GIM) during 12th and 13th Five Year Plan period. The 12th Plan outlay of NAP has also been proposed as Rs.10,000 crore against the outlay of Rs.2000 crore during 11th Plan. In addition, various State Governments are also implementing schemes for improvement of degraded forest utilizing State funds and externally aided projects.

Proposal for new Hubli-Ankola railway line

1410. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- a) whether the Ministry has received a proposal for the new Hubli-Ankola railway line;
- b) whether Government has raised any environment related objections;
- c) if so, the details thereof; and
- d) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests had received a proposal for diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The Forest Advisory Committee had recommended in its meeting held on 25.10.2004 to critically revise the proposal in consultation with Regional Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Regional Office, Bangalore, Ministry of Environment and Forests and submit a revised proposal for construction of railway line along with the details of the alternatives explored. The matter is now pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India through the Central Empowered Committee.