

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) and (b) Records of sacred groves situated in and around metropolitan cities are not maintained at the level of the Ministry.

(c) Sacred groves are community conserved land parcels, which usually have a significant religious connotation for protecting the community, and can be notified as Community Conserved Areas under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and Biodiversity Heritage Sites under the Biodiversity Act, 2002.

The Ministry supports protection and conservation of sacred groves with a strong emphasis on community involvement and eco-development activities, for which funds are provided to the State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes-Intensification of Forest Management, and Integrated Development for Wildlife Habitats.

#### **Delay in forest clearance**

2520. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of companies awaiting forest clearance from the Ministry during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of cases of forest clearance pending or cleared during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether there has been inordinate delay in clearing the forest clearances cases; and

(d) the steps/measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) and (b) The details of proposals for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 received, disposed of and presently under consideration of the Central Government is given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The proposals seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land are examined in

accordance with the provisions of the above Act and the Rules and Guidelines framed thereunder. Delay in taking decision on the proposals seeking approval under the Act is mainly due to receipt of incomplete proposals from the State/UT Governments and time taken in mandatory inspection of forest land proposed for diversion in case of proposals involving diversion of more than 100 ha of forest land in each case.

**Statement**

*The details of proposals for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes under the provisions of the Forest (Conservations) Act, 1980, received, disposed of and presently under consideration of Central Government*

Sl. No.	States/Union Territories	No. of proposals approved	Under consideration of Government of India	Pending due to non-receipt of information sought from the State/UT Govt.	Closed/ Rejected/ Returned/ Withdrawn	Total Number of Proposals
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Year 2010</b>						
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	1	2	1		4
2.	Andhra Pradesh	25	2	6	1	34
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	14	2	3		19
4.	Bihar	12	1	1		14
5.	Chandigarh			1	2	3
6.	Chhattisgarh	17		2	1	20
7.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	1		2		3
8.	Delhi	2		1		3
9.	Goa	3		2		5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Gujarat	75	1	12		88
11.	Haryana	236	10	45		291
12.	Himachal Pradesh	144	4	44	4	196
13.	Jharkhand	38	3	15		56
14.	Karnataka	22	2	4	9	37
15.	Kerala	2		1	1	4
16.	Madhya Pradesh	28	1	14	3	46
17.	Maharashtra	37	2	9	2	50
18.	Manipur	4		4		8
19.	Meghalaya	2				2
20.	Mizoram	1		1		2
21.	Orissa	19	1	2	2	24
22.	Punjab	254	9	67	5	335
23.	Rajasthan	22		5	4	31
24.	Sikkim	21				21
25.	Tamil Nadu	10		1	2	13
26.	Tripura	6		5		11
27.	Uttar Pradesh	143	5	6	7	161
28.	Uttarakhand	242	3	4	84	333
29.	West Bengal	9			2	11
TOTAL		1390	48	258	129	1825

**Year 2011**

1.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	3				3
2.	Andhra Pradesh	24	6	10	5	45

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	13	2	5		20
4.	Assam	2		2		4
5.	Bihar	26	7	8	1	42
6.	Chandigarh	4		1		5
7.	Chhattisgarh	7	7	9	2	25
8.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	7	3	1		11
9.	Delhi	1				1
10.	Goa				1	1
11.	Gujarat	83	20	31		134
12.	Haryana	295	17	97	1	410
13.	Himachal Pradesh	84	7	64	3	158
14.	Jharkhand	8	3	4	2	17
15.	Karnataka	14	11	4	6	35
16.	Kerala	4	1	3		8
17.	Madhya Pradesh	32	9	26	3	70
18.	Maharashtra	57	4	14	2	77
19.	Manipur		2			2
20.	Mizoram	1	1			2
21.	Orissa	16	4	3		23
22.	Punjab	253	10	119		382
23.	Rajasthan	14	2	5	3	24
24.	Sikkim	9	1			10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25.	Tamil Nadu	7	1	1		9
26.	Tripura	1				1
27.	Uttar Pradesh	114	6	11	6	137
28.	Uttarakhand	94	5	8	101	208
29.	West Bengal	4				4
TOTAL		1177	129	426	136	1868

**Year 2012**

1.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	1		2		3
2.	Andhra Pradesh	5	9	2	1	17
3.	Arunachal Pradesh		5	2		7
4.	Assam		1			1
5.	Bihar	6	4	6		16
6.	Chhattisgarh	1	9	3		13
7.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli			2		2
8.	Gujarat	13	12	4		29
9.	Haryana	64	21	15		100
10.	Himachal Pradesh	19	25	30		74
11.	Jharkhand	3	12	7		22
12.	Karnataka	5	13	1		19
13.	Kerala			1		1
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2	21	4		27

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15.	Maharashtra	10	10	2		22
16.	Manipur			1		1
17.	Meghalaya		1			1
18.	Mizoram		3			3
19.	Orissa	3	4	1		8
20.	Punjab	15	23	13		51
21.	Rajasthan	3	3			6
22.	Tamil Nadu	1	5			6
23.	Uttar Pradesh	7	13	8		28
24.	Uttarakhand	2	3	6	6	17
25.	West Bengal	1				1
TOTAL		161	197	110	7	475

### National Afforestation Programme

2521. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) has been functioning satisfactorily in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there has been substantial increase in the extent of land, public and forest, in which tree plantation has been undertaken since the inception of this programme;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?