

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:116  
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002  
PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
SHYAMA SINGH

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether eminent environmentalists have expressed concern over excessive and unscientific exploitation of natural resources in the country;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have recently announced on the World Environment Day some programmes to protect the depleting greens in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof indicating the other steps the Government propose to take to protect the fast depleting natural resources in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS ( SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) Harvesting of forests is permitted strictly as per the prescription of Working Plan prepared on the principle of sustainable management. Ministry of Environment and Forests through Forest Survey of India, Dehradun has been assessing the forest cover in the country biennially since 1987. As per the State of Forest Report, 1999 prepared by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, there is an increase in forest cover by 3896 sq. km. compared to the previous assessment.

(c) & (d) No, Sir. However, various measures have been undertaken for conservation and development of forests. The important ones are :

i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by States/UTs from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from the Government of India.

ii)

Externally aided projects are being implemented for development and preservation of forests.

iii) Guidelines to all States/UTs to involve village communities in protection and re- generation of degraded forests have been issued.

iv) Ministry has prepared a National Forestry Action Plan to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered development through improvement in investment for conservation and development of forest resources.

v) National guidelines for prevention and control of forest fire have been issued to all States/ UTs.