

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2213
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2002
DEFORESTATION IN HIMALAYAN REGION
CHANDRA NATH SINGH

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

- (a) whether rampant deforestation in the Himalayan region is causing siltation in the rivers in Uttar Pradesh; and
- (b) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) According to the 'State of Forest Report 1999' of the Forest Survey of India, there has been a net increase of 324 sq.km, including 17 sq.km in Uttaranchal, in the forest cover of the hilly states since 1997. There is, therefore, no indication of rampant deforestation in the Himalayan region. However, siltation in the rivers does take place due to soil erosion caused by heavy rains, cloud bursts, unstable geological formation of Himalayan region, faulty land use practices and inadequate forest cover etc.
- (b) The remedial steps taken by the Government include afforestation on degraded hill slopes, forest protection measures including involvement of people through joint forest management and various other programmes /schemes for environmental conservation.