

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:140
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002
DEVELOPMENT OF FORESTS IN DELHI
RAMJI MANJHI

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

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'what's a city without a forest or two?' appearing in the Times of India dated July 1, 2002;
- (b) if so, the quantum of money released to various departments of Delhi to develop forests during each of the last five years and the manner in which this money has been utilized, Department-wise; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to remove all non-forest activities from the forest areas in Delhi and the time by which these are likely to be removed/cleared to pave way for the development of forest?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. As per the State of Forest Report, 2000, the forest cover of Delhi has increased from 26 sq. km to 88 sq. km. Various agencies like Delhi Development Authority, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, New Delhi Municipal Council, Central Public Works Department, Public Works Department and other Development Departments are engaged in increasing the tree cover in Delhi. Expenditure incurred by the Forest Department, Government of NCT of Delhi under Plan and Non-Plan during the last years is as follows:

Year Amount (in Rs.)

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1997-1998 | 963.24 lakhs |
| 1998-1999 | 878.21 lakhs |
| 1999-2000 | 1137.54 lakhs |
| 2000-2001 | 1281.17 lakhs |
| 2001-2002 | 1543.08 lakhs |

The amount has been spent on plantation on forest and non-forest areas in the NCT of Delhi, establishment, publicity measures and wildlife sanctuary etc. Other departments like CPWD, NDMC, PWD, MCD, DDA have also taken up plantation activities in their respective areas.

(c) No non forest activities are permitted in forest areas except by prior permission under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 (FCA). In case encroachments and or violation of FCA are observed, measures under the relevant statutory provision are taken to remove these.