

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5619
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2005
FELLING OF TIMBER TREES AND FIRE WOODS
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh

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

- (a) whether the main reason for deforestation is the continuous felling of timber trees and firewoods ;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make available other alternates on reasonable and affordable prices in place of timber and firewoods ;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to launch schemes to encourage the plastic made goods ;
- (d) if so, the details thereof ;
- (e) whether the forest conservation schemes financed by foreign countries have been implemented by the government ; and
- (f) if so, the details of such projects, State-wise ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) No, Sir. There are number of reasons for deforestation such as diversion of forest land for developmental activities, encroachment, shifting cultivation including illicit felling of timber trees etc. Removal of headloads of firewood by local villagers has a negative impact on health of forests.

(b) To reduce the biotic pressure on forests (for fuelwood and timber) Government is taking up a number of measures. Some of these are :-

(i) Government is encouraging planting of tree species such as Eucalyptus, Poplar, Silver Oak etc., outside forests.

(ii) Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, an autonomous organisation of Ministry of Environment and Forests, is engaged in developing technologies for substitute of timber like bamboo mat based panel products and bamboo laminates.

(iii) The National Mission on Bamboo Applications is also exploring ways for development of bamboo sector.

(iv) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is supporting various programmes such as biogas, (covering community / institutional / night-soil-based biogas plants), improved chulhas, solar cooker and solar water heating systems to meet the energy requirements of cooking, heating and lighting particularly in the rural areas of the country.

(c)and (d) : No, Sir. There is no such proposal in the Ministry.

(e)and(f) : Yes, Sir. There are 8 Externally Aided Forestry Projects being implemented by Forest Departments of 7 States at an estimated cost of Rs. 3000 crores. The details are given in Annexure -I

In addition, two projects namely Eastern Karnataka Afforestation Project Phase II and Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project Phase II at an outlay of Rs. 779 crores and Rs. 564 crores respectively have been sanctioned by Japan Bank for International Co-operation for implementation from 2005-06.

ANNEXURE -I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (E) & (F) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5619 DUE FOR REPLY ON 02.05.05 REGARDING `FELLING OF TIMBER AND FIRE WOODS

(Rs. in crores)

No. Project	Name of State Aid Agency Project	Period	Cost
1	Integrated Natural Resource Management and Poverty Reduction Project in Haryana	Haryana JBIC 2004-05 to 2009-10	286
2	Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project	Rajasthan JBIC 2003-04 to 2008-09	442
3	Andhra Pradesh Community Forestry Project	Andhra Pradesh World Bank 2002-03 to 2006-07	653
4	Himachal Pradesh Forest Sector Reforms Project for International Development - UK	Himachal Pr. Department 2002-03 to 2006-07	55
5	Punjab Afforestation Project - II	Punjab JBIC 2002-03 to 2006-07	264
6	Indo-German Changar Eco-Development Project of Germany	Himachal Pr. Government 1999-2000 to 2004-05	30
7	Eastern Karnataka Afforestation Project	Karnataka JBIC 1997-98 to 2004-05	722.489
8	Tamil Nadu Afforestation Project	Tamil Nadu JBIC 1997-98 to 2004-05	547.72