

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2578  
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2004  
AFFORESTATION IN ARAVALLI HILLS  
Bhagora Shri Mahavir

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

- (a) whether the Aravalli hills in Rajasthan are becoming tree-less;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the persons held responsible for the same;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to make the hills green again;
- (e) if so, the schemes formulated in this regard;
- (f) by when such hills are likely to be made green;
- (g) whether the Government proposes to take assistance from common man and voluntary organizations in this regard; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof ?

**Answer**

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

(a), (b) & (c) Forests of Aravalli hills including those in Rajasthan are generally subjected to biotic and abiotic pressures. However, continuous efforts are on to protect and develop the forests of the region in consonance with the available resources. Persons involved in forest offences are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of law.

(d), (e) & (f) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing Integrated Forest Protection Scheme aiming at protection and conservation of forests, and National Afforestation Programme focusing on improvement and development of forests. In addition, an externally-aided project with the assistance of Japan Bank for International Cooperation titled `Rajasthan Forestry and Bio-diversity Project`, dealing with afforestation and bio-diversity conservation is also being implemented in the State. It is difficult to fix a time frame for complete rehabilitation of forests or for complete greening of Aravalli Hills. However, efforts for protection and development of Aravalli forests have shown positive results, and as per State of Forest Report 2001 of the Forest Survey of India, there has been an increase of 3,478 sq. kms. in the forest cover of Rajasthan State between 1991 and 2001.

(g) & (h) People's participation is an integral component of Centrally sponsored afforestation programmes. The Ministry of Environment and Forests is encouraging Joint Forest Management (JFM) for eliciting participation of people and voluntary sector for the protection and development of forests on `Care and Share` basis. There were 3667 JFM committees in Rajasthan State covering an area of 3.76 lakh ha. of forests as on 31.07.2003.