

Afforestation in Delhi

†159. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi is left with thirteen per cent less forest cover than the forest cover prescribed under the national forest policy;

(b) if so, the details of the measures being taken to bring the forest cover to the prescribed limit;

(c) whether it is a fact that this situation has arisen due to excessive chopping of trees in Delhi during the past three year; and

(d) the details of the trees which have been chopped and planted in Delhi during the past three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) The forest and tree cover of Delhi is 20.20 per cent (299.58 km²) of its geographical area as per India State of Forest Report 2009 published by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun which is less than the target of 33 per cent of National Forest Policy, 1988.

(b) Effort is being constantly made to plant more and more saplings through various greening agencies, Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) etc in Delhi to increase the tree and forest cover of Delhi, despite constraint of land availability. Delhi has a provision of Compensatory Afforestation under the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994 under which for every tree allowed to be removed, 10 trees/saplings are planted and maintained.

(c) No, Madam. The tree and forest cover of Delhi has increased from 10.20% in 2000 to 20.20% in 2009.

(d) The plantation during last 3 years are 1133936 (2008-09), 1366665 (2009-10) and 1229826 (2010-11). Trees permitted to be removed under Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994 during last three years are 3391 (2008-09), 1550 (2009-10) and 1902 (2010-11).

Conservation of peacock in the country

160. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) the details of the peacocks killed during the last three years across the country;
- (b) whether it is a fact that about 300 peacocks have been killed in Bundi district alone in Rajasthan in the past one year;
- (c) whether districts like Bundi, Bharatpur, Nagaur and Ajmer are infamous for the poaching of the national bird; and
- (d) if so, the steps and measures taken by Government to stop poaching of peacock and protect them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) The details of peacocks killed across the country are not collated in the Ministry.

(b) In Bundi district, 32 peacocks have been reported killed in the past one year i.e. during 2010-11.

(c) No, Sir, However, as informed by the State Forest Department, Rajasthan, stray incidents of killing of peacocks reported in Bundi, Bharatpur, Nagaur and Ajmer districts during last three years are as under :

Ajmer	-	69
Bharatpur	11	10
Nagaur	-	7
Bundi	-	84

(d) The Steps taken the Government to stop poaching of peacock and to protect them are as under :

- (i) Peacock has been included under the Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby affording this species the highest degree of legal protection.
- (ii) Law enforcement authorities in the States maintain strict vigil against poaching of peacocks.
- (iii) Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to gather intelligence about poaching and unlawful trade in wild animals and animal articles, including peacocks, and to achieve inter-state and trans-boundary coordination in enforcement of wildlife laws.