

Parimal Nathwani

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Media Release

Decadal Change in Forest Cover on Positive 4.75 Per Cent : Green India is a National Mission

Jairam Ramesh to Parimal Nathwani in RS

August 3, 2010 : Under the national action plans on climate change announced by the Government of India, a National Mission for a Green India is mooted to counter the effects of climate change through forestry programmes with objectives of increasing the forest cover, including its density and biodiversity conservation. Mr. Jairam Ramesh, the union minister of state having independent charge for environment and forest informed rajya sabha while replying to an un-starred question from MP Mr. Parimal Nathwani.

Mr. Nathwani wanted to know whether there was a decrease in forest cover during 2000 to 2010. The minister replied categorically in negative to this and stated that the decadal change in forest cover is 31,349 square kilometer i.e. 4.75 per cent, in accordance with the Indian State of Forest Report, 2009. This change is based upon 2007 and 1999 assessments; it was added.

The Forest Survey of India started assessing forest cover of the country from 1987. As per the data submitted to the House, the forests cover in the country as on the year 2009 was 690,899 square kilometer; which was 640,819 square kilometer in 1987. In accordance with these data, there was a marginal decrease in the forest cover of the country in the year 1995 and 1997. It is however on increase continuously thereafter.

