

# DEFORESTATION IN INDIA



## Causes of deforestation:

### 1. Developmental projects:

Developmental projects causes deforestation through two ways.

- Through submergence of forest area.
- Destruction of forest area.

(e.g) big dams, hydro electric projects, road construction etc.

### 2. Mining operations:

It reduces forest areas. (e.g.)Mica, coal, Manganese and lime stone.

### 3. Raw materials for industries:

Wood is an important raw material for various purposes. (e.g.) making boxes, furniture and paper etc.

### 4. Fuel requirement:

Wood is the important fuel for rural and tribal population.

### 5. Shifting cultivation:

Replacement of natural forest ecosystem for mono specific tree plantation. (eg) teak

### 6. Forest fires:

Forest fire destructs thousands of forest.

### 7. Over grazing:

Over grazing by cattle reduces the cultivation land.

## **CONSEQUENCES OF DEFORESTATION (or) ILL EFFECTS (or) IMPACT OF DEFORESTATION**

1. Economic loss
2. Loss of biodiversity
3. Destroys the habitats of various species
4. Reduction in stream flow
5. Increases the rate of global warming
6. Disruption of weather patterns and global climate
7. Degradation of soil and acceleration of the rate of soil erosion.
8. Induces and accelerates mass movement / land slides.
9. Increases flood frequency, magnitude / severity.
10. Breaks the water cycle
11. Breaks the nutrient cycle
12. Loss of forests put additional pressure on the pristine forests.

## **PREVENTIVE MEASURES (OR) AVOID OF DEFORESTATION (OR) METHODS OF CONSERVATION OF FORESTS**

1. New plants of more or less of the same variety should be planted to replace the trees cut down for timber
2. Use of wood for fuel should be discouraged.
3. Forest pests can be controlled by spraying pesticides by using aero planes
4. Forest fire must be controlled by modern techniques.
5. Over grazing by cattle must be controlled.
6. Steps should be taken by the government to discourage the migration of people into the islands from mainland.
7. Education and awareness programmes must be conducted.
8. Strict implementation of law of Forest conservation Act.

### **Case study:**

Deforestation in the Himalayan region, involves clearing of natural forests and plantation of monoculture like eucalyptus. Nutrient in the soil is poor, therefore soil losing their fertility. Hence Himalayan area facing the serious problem of deforestation.

Source : <http://nprcet.org/e%20content/eee/EVS.pdf>