

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1513**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.01.2018

**Targeted forest cover under National Forest Policy**

1513. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the targeted forest cover under the National Forest Policy;
- (b) how many forest rangers are currently employed by the Department of Forest; and
- (c) how many vacancies are currently there in Department of Forests in all the States?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

- (a) The National Forest Policy, 1988 prescribes that a minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country should be under forest or tree cover. In the hills and in mountainous regions, the aim should be to maintain two-third of the area under such cover in order to prevent erosion and land degradation and to ensure the stability of the fragile eco-system.
- (b) to (c) The recruitment, vacancy and other service related matters are basically fall under the domain of respective State/UT Governments. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change does not maintain such information at the central level. Based on the information received from various States/ UTs, the position filled –in and vacant posts of frontline staff of the forest departments in the States/UTs are given in Annexure.

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ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY OF THE PART (b) & (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1513 ASKED BY SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA REGARDING TARGETED FOREST COVER UNDER NATIONAL FOREST POLICY DUE FOR ANSWER ON 01.01.2018

**State-wise sanctioned strength and current position of frontline staff in Forest Departments**

S. No.	State/UT	Posts	No. of sanctioned posts	Position filled	Position vacant
1	Andhra Pradesh (as on 31.03.2016)	Range Forest Officer	295	212	83
		Deputy Rangers	192	177	15
		Foresters	972	454	518
		Beat Guards	2258	915	1343
2	Bihar (as on 01.03.2016)	Range Forest Officer	131	90	41
		Deputy Rangers	0	0	0
		Foresters	530	180	350
		Beat Guards	2017	375	1642
3	Chhattisgarh (as on 02.06.2016)	Range Forest Officer	490	336	154
		Deputy Rangers	650	575	75
		Foresters	1668	1581	87
		Beat Guards	4777	4378	399
4	Gujarat	Range Forest Officer	-	-	-
		Deputy Rangers	-	-	-
		Foresters	-	-	-
		Beat Guards	-	-	-
5	Goa (as on 16.04.2015)	Range Forest Officer	45	42	3
		Deputy Rangers	22	16	6
		Foresters	96	75	21
		Beat Guards	420	236	184

6	Haryana  (as on 31.03.2016)	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	132	87	45
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	125	60	65
		<b>Foresters</b>	539	328	211
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	1589	910	679
7	Himachal Pradesh  (as on 31.03.2016)	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	296	203	93
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	801	749	52
		<b>Foresters</b>	0	0	0
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	2581	2116	465
8	Jharkhand  (as on 16.10.2015)	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	383	269	114
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	-	-	-
		<b>Foresters</b>	1062	264	798
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	3883	579	3304
9	Jammu & Kashmir	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	-	-	-
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	-	-	-
		<b>Foresters</b>	-	-	-
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	-	-	-
10	Karnataka  (as on 31.03.2016)	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	765	659	106
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	2734	1603	1131
		<b>Foresters</b>	0	0	0
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	3924	2901	1093
11	Kerala  (as on 31.03.2016)	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	116	97	19
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	153	152	1
		<b>Foresters</b>	653	610	43
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	2542	2304	238
12	Madhya Pradesh	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	-	-	-
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	-	-	-
		<b>Foresters</b>	-	-	-

		<b>Beat Guards</b>	-	-	-
13	Maharashtra  (as on 31.12.2015)	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	931	847	84
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	0	0	0
		<b>Foresters</b>	3025	2760	263
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	9461	8734	727
14	Odisha	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	-	-	-
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	-	-	-
		<b>Foresters</b>	-	-	-
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	-	-	-
15	Punjab  (as on 31.03.2016)	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	75	10	65
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	8	0	8
		<b>Foresters</b>	24	4	20
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	882	863	19
16	Rajasthan	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	-	-	-
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	-	-	-
		<b>Foresters</b>	-	-	-
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	-	-	-
17	Tamil Nadu  (as on 31.03.2016)	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	-	-	-
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	-	-	-
		<b>Foresters</b>	1302	742	404
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	2360	1800	560
18.	Telangana  (as on 31.03.2016)	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	238	178	60
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	185	174	11
		<b>Foresters</b>	876	605	271
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	2156	1252	904
19.	Uttar Pradesh  (as on	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	660	595	65
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	2338	1991	347

	31.03.2016)	<b>Foresters</b>	2918	2190	728
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	262	117	145
20.	Uttarakhand	<b>*Range Forest Officer</b>	308	217	91
	(*as on 27.12.2017 & 31.03.2016)	<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	408	348	60
		<b>Foresters</b>	1729	1428	301
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	3650	2634	1015
21.	West Bengal	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	580	333	247
	(as on 31.03.2016)	<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	1277	705	572
		<b>Foresters</b>			
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	2444	1324	1120
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	172	121	51
	(as on 31.03.2016)	<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	235	211	24
		<b>Foresters</b>	400	381	19
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	670	663	07
23.	Assam	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	380	283	97
	(as on 05.06.2015)	<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	233	204	29
		<b>Foresters</b>	1692	1322	370
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	3862	3186	676
24.	Manipur	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	73	40	33
	(as on 31.03.2016)	<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	91	75	16
		<b>Foresters</b>	119	52	67
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	503	312	191
25.	Meghalaya	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	81	68	13
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	14	14	0
		<b>Foresters</b>	248	221	27
	(as on 31.03.2016)	<b>Beat Guards</b>	446	373	73

26.	Mizoram  (as on 31.03.2016)	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	78	52	26
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	39	37	2
		<b>Foresters</b>	239	197	42
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	417	198	219
27.	Nagaland  (*as on 27.12.2017 and as on 03.11.2014)	<b>*Range Forest Officer</b>	52	52	00
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	48	46	02
		<b>Foresters</b>	257	239	18
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	422	424	-
28.	Sikkim   (as on 31.03.2016)	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	75	92	-
		<b>Block Officer</b>	160	115	45
		<b>Head Forest Guards</b>	160	153	7
		<b>Forest Guards</b>	330	309	21
29.	Tripura  (as on 16.08.2014)	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	119	95	30
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>			
		<b>Foresters</b>	493	319	174
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	771	544	227
30.	A & N Islands  (as on 31.03.2016)	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	76	63	13
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	64	61	03
		<b>Foresters</b>	227	202	25
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	331	302	29
31.	Chandigarh  (as on 31.03.2016)	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	2	2	-
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	1	-	1
		<b>Foresters</b>	12	4	8
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	15	5	10
32.	D&N Haveli	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	04	05	00
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	02	01	01

	(as on 12.05.2015)	<b>Foresters</b>	19	13	06
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	73	79	06
33.	Daman & Diu	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	-	-	-
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	-	-	-
		<b>Foresters</b>	-	-	-
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	-	-	-
34.	Lakshadweep	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	-	-	-
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	-	-	-
		<b>Foresters</b>	-	-	-
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	-	-	-
35.	New Delhi  (as on 31.03.2016)	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	6		6
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	16	12	4
		<b>Foresters</b>			
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	66	24	42
36.	Puducherry	<b>Range Forest Officer</b>	-	-	-
		<b>Deputy Rangers</b>	-	-	-
		<b>Foresters</b>	-	-	-
		<b>Beat Guards</b>	-	-	-