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.

***
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>State/UT</th>
<th>Posts</th>
<th>No. of sanctioned posts</th>
<th>Position filled</th>
<th>Position vacant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>Range Forest Officer</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Deputy Rangers</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Foresters</td>
<td>972</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Beat Guards</td>
<td>2258</td>
<td>915</td>
<td>1343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bihar</td>
<td>Range Forest Officer</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Deputy Rangers</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Foresters</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Beat Guards</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>1642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Chhattisgarh</td>
<td>Range Forest Officer</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Deputy Rangers</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Foresters</td>
<td>1668</td>
<td>1581</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Beat Guards</td>
<td>4777</td>
<td>4378</td>
<td>399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>Range Forest Officer</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Deputy Rangers</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Foresters</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Beat Guards</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Goa</td>
<td>Range Forest Officer</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Deputy Rangers</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Foresters</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Beat Guards</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Range Forest Officer</td>
<td>Deputy Rangers</td>
<td>Foresters</td>
<td>Beat Guards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(as on 31.03.2016)</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>65</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>539</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>211</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1589</td>
<td>910</td>
<td>679</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>93</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(as on 31.03.2016)</td>
<td>801</td>
<td>749</td>
<td>52</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2581</td>
<td>2116</td>
<td>465</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Jharkhand</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>114</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(as on 16.10.2015)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1062</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>798</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3883</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>3304</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(as on 31.03.2016)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>765</td>
<td>659</td>
<td>106</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2734</td>
<td>1603</td>
<td>1131</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3924</td>
<td>2901</td>
<td>1093</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(as on 31.03.2016)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>116</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>153</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>653</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>43</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2542</td>
<td>2304</td>
<td>238</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Range Forest Officer</td>
<td>Deputy Rangers</td>
<td>Foresters</td>
<td>Beat Guards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>931 847 84</td>
<td>0 0 0</td>
<td>3025 2760 263</td>
<td>9461 8734 727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Odisha</td>
<td>- - -</td>
<td>- - -</td>
<td>- - -</td>
<td>- - -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>75 10 65</td>
<td>8 0 8</td>
<td>24 4 20</td>
<td>882 863 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>- - -</td>
<td>- - -</td>
<td>- - -</td>
<td>- - -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>- - -</td>
<td>- - -</td>
<td>- - -</td>
<td>- - -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Telangana</td>
<td>238 178 60</td>
<td>185 174 11</td>
<td>876 605 271</td>
<td>2156 1252 904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>660 595 65</td>
<td>2338 1991 347</td>
<td>- - -</td>
<td>- - -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Range Forest Officer</td>
<td>Deputy Rangers</td>
<td>Foresters</td>
<td>Beat Guards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Uttarakhand</td>
<td>31.03.2016</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>1729</td>
<td>3650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(*as on 27.12.2017 &amp; 31.03.2016)</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>1428</td>
<td>2634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>91</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>1015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. West Bengal</td>
<td>31.03.2016</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>1277</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>2444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(as on 31.03.2016)</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>705</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>1324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>247</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Arunachal Pradesh</td>
<td>31.03.2016</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(as on 31.03.2016)</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>51</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Assam</td>
<td>05.06.2015</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>1692</td>
<td>3862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(as on 31.03.2016)</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>1322</td>
<td>3186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>97</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Manipur</td>
<td>31.03.2016</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(as on 31.03.2016)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>33</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Meghalaya</td>
<td>31.03.2016</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(as on 31.03.2016)</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>UT Name (as on D)</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Deputy Rangers</td>
<td>Foresters</td>
<td>Beat Guards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>Mizoram (as on 31.03.2016)</td>
<td>Range Forest Officer</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Deputy Rangers</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Foresters</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Beat Guards</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>Nagaland (*as on 27.12.2017 and as on 03.11.2014)</td>
<td>*Range Forest Officer</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Deputy Rangers</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Foresters</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Beat Guards</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>Sikkim (as on 31.03.2016)</td>
<td>Range Forest Officer</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Block Officer</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Head Forest Guards</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Forest Guards</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>Tripura (as on 16.08.2014)</td>
<td>Range Forest Officer</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Deputy Rangers</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Foresters</td>
<td>771</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>A &amp; N Islands (as on 31.03.2016)</td>
<td>Range Forest Officer</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Deputy Rangers</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Foresters</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Beat Guards</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>Chandigarh (as on 31.03.2016)</td>
<td>Range Forest Officer</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Deputy Rangers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Foresters</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Beat Guards</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.</td>
<td>D&amp;N Haveli</td>
<td>Range Forest Officer</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Deputy Rangers</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>Range Forest Officer</td>
<td>Deputy Rangers</td>
<td>Foresters</td>
<td>Beat Guards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33.</td>
<td>Daman &amp; Diu</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34.</td>
<td>Lakshadweep</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.</td>
<td>New Delhi</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(as on 31.03.2016)</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>42</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.</td>
<td>Puducherry</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>