

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2619
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2018

Disappearance of forests

2619. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that 81,000 hectares of forest land has disappeared;
- (b) whether as per official reports, there was 23.60 lakh hectares of forest land, and now according to Forest Survey of India (2014-15), only 22.79 lakh hectare have been left;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that more than 23,000 hectare of forest land is illegally occupied and 431.31 acre of forest land has been registered in the names of private individuals; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by Government for the conservation of forest land and dense afforestation on degenerated forest land?

ANSWER

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

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) & (b) The total forest and tree cover of the country, as per the latest "India State of Forest Report (ISFR) - 2017" published by Forest Survey of India, is 8,02,088 square kilometers which is 24.39% of the total geographical area of the country. It shows an increase of 8021 square kilometers over that of the ISFR- 2015 (updated).
- (c) As per updated information in the Ministry, total forest area under encroachment is 1361248.21 hectares.
- (d) To further increase the forest cover in the country, afforestation programmes are being taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and Green India Mission (GIM) being implemented by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes/funding sources such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) and under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).

National Afforestation Programme (NAP) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for afforestation and eco-restoration of degraded forests and adjoining areas through people's participation in the country. An amount of Rs. 3778.63 crores has been released to the states to treat an area of 21.78 lakh hectares since inception of this programme in 2000-02 till 2017-18 as on 28.02.2018.

National Mission for a Green India (GIM) is one of the eight Missions outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. So far fund amounting to Rs. 157.19 crore has been released under GIM to nine States for carrying out various activities under the mission.
