

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3426
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2018

Forest cover and dense forest in India

3426. SHRI C.P.NARAYANAN:

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

- (a) the extent of forest cover available as a percentage of total area;
- (b) the area under dense forests;
- (c) the extent of forest used for developmental activities, including industrialization during last three years;
- (d) the extent of afforestation during the same period; and
- (e) number of forest dwellers and animals displaced during last three years?

ANSWER

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

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, a subordinate organization under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, carries out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). As per the latest report i.e. ISFR- 2017, the total forest and tree cover of the country is 8,02,088 square kilometers which is 24.39% of the total geographical area of the country.
- (b) As per ISFR-2017, the area under Very Dense Forest (VDF) is 98,158 square kilometer and Moderately Dense Forest (MDF) of the country is 3,08,318 square kilometer totaling 4,06,476 square kilometer which is 12.37% of the total geographical area of the country.
- (c) The total area diverted for developmental activities for non-forestry purpose under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the period 01.01.2015 to 31.12.2017 is 38339.68 hectares.
- (d) To increase the forest and tree 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). Under National Afforestation Programme, an amount of Rs.397.29 crore have been released to the States to treat an area of 112780 hectares during the last three years (2014-15 to 2016-17). Under Green India Mission, an amount of Rs. 157.64 crore have been released to the States to treat an area of 78355.3 hectares from 2015-16 to 2017-18.

- (e) No such information is maintained in the Ministry.
