

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3892
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.04.2018

Increase in forest cover

3892. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that forest cover in the country has increased during the recent years, including Odisha;
- (b) whether migration by the rural folk to cities leads to an increase of forest cover;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government has conducted any survey in this regard; and
- (d) the increase of total forest cover in Odisha and other States of India during the last two years?

ANSWER

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

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) As per the latest “India State of Forest Report (ISFR) - 2017” published by Forest Survey of India, 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. It shows an increase of 8021 square kilometers over that of the ISFR- 2015 (updated) of which, there is a net increase of 6,778 square kilometer in forest cover and 1,243 square kilometer in tree cover. The total forest cover of Odisha state as per ISFR 2017 is 51,345 square kilometer which is 32.98% of geographical area of the state. The increase in Odisha’s forest cover is 885 square kilometer compared to ISFR 2015 (updated).
- (b) & (c) No such study has been conducted by the Ministry.
- (d) The State/UTs wise details of forest cover and increase/decrease in forest cover as per ISFR-2017 is given in **Annexure**.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (d) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3892 due for answer on 02.04.2018 regarding 'Increase in forest cover'

Change in Forest Cover of States/UTs between 2015 and 2017 assessments as per India State of Forest Report (ISFR) -2017

(Area in square kilometer)

State	Geographic Area	Total Forest cover as per ISFR- 2017	Percent of Geographic area	Change in forest cover wrt ISFR 2015 (updated)
Andhra Pradesh	162968	28,147	17.27	2141
Arunachal Pradesh	83743	66,964	79.96	-190
Assam	78438	28,105	35.83	567
Bihar	94163	7,299	7.75	45
Chhattisgarh	135192	55,547	41.09	-12
Delhi	1483	192.41	12.97	3.64
Goa	3702	2,229	60.21	19
Gujarat	196244	14,757	7.52	47
Haryana	44212	1,588	3.59	8
Himachal Pradesh	55673	15,100	27.12	393
Jammu & Kashmir *	222236	23,241	10.46	253
Jharkhand	79716	23,553	29.55	29
Karnataka	191791	37,550	19.58	1101
Kerala	38852	20,321	52.30	1043
Madhya Pradesh	308252	77,414	25.11	-12
Maharashtra	307713	50,682	16.47	-17
Manipur	22327	17,346	77.69	263
Meghalaya	22429	17,146	76.45	-116
Mizoram	21081	18,186	86.27	-531
Nagaland	16579	12,489	75.33	-450
Odisha	155707	51,345	32.98	885
Punjab	50362	1837	3.65	66
Rajasthan	342239	16,572	4.84	466
Sikkim	7096	3,344	47.13	-9
Tamil Nadu	130060	26,281	20.21	73
Telangana	112077	20,419	18.22	565
Tripura	10486	7,726	73.68	-164
Uttar Pradesh	240928	14,679	6.09	278
Uttarakhand	53483	24,295	45.43	23
West Bengal	88752	16,847	18.98	21
A&N Islands	8249	6,742	81.73	-9
Chandigarh	114	21.56	18.91	-0.10
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	207	42.16	1
Daman & Diu	111	20.49	18.46	0.88
Lakshadweep	30	27.10	90.33	0.04
Puducherry	490	53.67	10.95	-3.28
Grand Total	32,87,469	708273	21.54	6778

