

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 694**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2018

**Forest cover targets in Rajasthan and Gujarat**

694. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR:

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

- (a) the details of actual forest cover against the targets fixed during the years 2015 to 2017 in the States of Rajasthan and Gujarat;
- (b) the details of the area where deforestation and denudation of forest has taken place during the last three years, alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to check further denudation of forest area in the country;
- (d) whether Government proposes to launch a new initiative involving local-level institutions and private sector to expand forest cover in the country, especially in rural areas; and
- (e) if so, the details and the efforts made by Government?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

- (a) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, 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 Rajasthan and Gujarat is 24,838 square kilometer and 22,781 square kilometer respectively. There is an increase of 463 square kilometer and 157 square kilometers of total forest and tree cover in Rajasthan and Gujarat respectively compared to that of ISFR-2015. No target has been fixed for increase in forest cover. However, the National Forest Policy 1988, provides that one third of the total geographical area of the country should be under forest and tree cover.
- (b) & (c) For various developmental activities in the country, permission for diversion of the forest is granted by the Central Government under Forest (Conversation) Act, 1980. The forest land diverted under Forest Conversation Act during the period from 01.01.2015 to 11.12.2018 is 52338.75 hectares. The State/UTs wise details are given in **Annexure**. To

compensate for the loss of forest cover, compensatory afforestation in equal area of non-forest land is taken up.

- (d) & (e) To increase the forest area 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 Compensatory Afforestation Fund which also involves local level institutions.

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**Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 694 due for answer on 17-12-2018 regarding ' Forest Cover targets in Rajasthan and Gujarat'**

**Statement Showing Cases For State/UTs wise diversion of Forest Land in Under FC Act 1980 during the period 01.01.2015 to 11.12.2018.**

(Area in hectares)

S. No.	States/UTs	No. of Cases	Area Diverted
1	Andaman and Nicobar	6	20.14
2	Andhra Pradesh	34	3474.57
3	Arunachal Pradesh	12	451.37
4	Assam	0	0.00
5	Bihar	117	1125.22
6	Chandigarh	2	0.39
7	Chhattisgarh	35	3770.87
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	9	5.40
9	Daman and Diu	0	0.00
10	Delhi	1	12.00
11	Goa	8	42.75
12	Gujarat	106	2008.07
13	Haryana	895	1470.27
14	Himachal Pradesh	115	781.88
15	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0.00
16	Jharkhand	30	685.90
17	Karnataka	60	784.75
18	Kerala	8	15.82
19	Lakshadweep	0	0.00
20	Madhya Pradesh	204	12727.62
21	Maharashtra	32	3709.19
22	Manipur	7	263.20
23	Meghalaya	2	142.93
24	Mizoram	1	0.24
25	Nagaland	0	0.00
26	Orissa	57	4968.28
27	Pondicherry	0	0.00
28	Punjab	679	1294.53
29	Rajasthan	78	2789.97
30	Sikkim	8	24.30
31	Tamil Nadu	11	542.40
32	Telangana	28	7874.02
33	Tripura	9	83.98
34	Uttar Pradesh	4	163.76
35	Uttarakhand	237	2813.77
36	West Bengal	9	291.15
Grand Total		<b>2804</b>	<b>52338.75</b>