

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 710
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2018

Direction to States to increase forest cover

710. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB:

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

- (a) whether Government has any plan to increase the forest area in the States to maintain minimum forest;
- (b) whether any direction has been given to the States in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c) The National Forest Policy provides that one third of the total geographical area of the country should be under forest and tree cover. The National Forest Policy 1988 is a policy direction to all States/UTs to conserve and increase the forest cover as per the strategy provided in the National Forest Policy.

As per the latest India State of Forest Report i.e. ISFR-2017, the total forest and tree cover in the country is 8,02,088 square kilometers which is 24.39% of the geographical area of the country.

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.
