GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1483
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2021

National Forest Policy, 2018

1483. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

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

(a) the total land under the coverage of forest /trees across the country, as on date, State/UT-wise;
(b) whether Government drafted a new National Forest Policy (NFP), 2018;
(c) if so, the details along with the aims and objectives thereof;
(d) whether Government has elicited comments/ suggestions on the draft NFP, 2018 from various stakeholders and if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
(e) the time by which the new NFP will come into force?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun carries out 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-2019, the total forest and tree cover of the country is 8,07,276 sq. km (forest cover- 7,12,249 sq. km, tree cover - 95,027 sq. km) which is 24.56 % of the geographical area of the country. There is an increase of5,188 sq. km (forest cover- 3976 sq. km, tree cover-1212 sq.km) of total forest and tree cover compared to that of ISFR-2017. TheState/UT-wise details of forest cover and tree cover are attached as Annexure 1.

(b) to (e) National Forest Policy, 1988 is the main policy document containing guidingprinciples for conservation, protection and management of forests in the country.

A draft was prepared to update the existing National Forest Policy, 1988 after wideconsultations with major stakeholders. The draft was circulated to the concernedCentral Ministries/Departments and State Governments/UT Administrations. The draft was alsoplaced in the public domain in March 2018 for inviting comments from variousstakeholders in the public/private sectors, NGOs, civil societies, experts and other concerned individuals.

Based on the comments/suggestions received, the draft has beenrevised in respect of various aspects which include improving livelihoods of people basedon sustainable management of forests for provision ofecosystem services andecological security, increasing productivity of forests, promotion of agro-forestry andfarm-forestry, addressing Climate Change issues, etc.

No time has been set to adopt new National Forest Policy. As of now the existing National Forest Policy, 1988 is in operation.

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Annexure-1

ANNEXURE REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PART(a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1483 ASKED BY SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE DUE FOR 02.08.2021 REGARDING NATIONAL FOREST POLICY, 2018

State/UTs wise details of Forest and Tree Cover as per ISFR 2019

(Area in square kilometre)

State/UTs	Geographic Area	Forest Cover	Tree Cover
Andhra Pradesh	1,62,968	29,137	3,914
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	66,688	848
Assam	78,438	28,327	1,408
Bihar	94,163	7,306	2,003
Chhattisgarh	1,35,192	55,611	4,248
Delhi	1,483	195.44	129
Goa	3,702	2,237	272
Gujarat	1,96,244	14,857	6,912
Haryana	44,212	1,602	1,565
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	15,434	829
Jammu & Kashmir	2,22,236	23,612	7,944
Jharkhand	79,716	23,611	2,657
Karnataka	1,91,791	38,575	6,257
Kerala	38,852	21,144	2,936
Madhya Pradesh	3,08,252	77,482	8,339
Maharashtra	3,07,713	50,778	10,806
Manipur	22,327	16,847	173
Meghalaya	22,429	17,119	710
Mizoram	21,081	18,006	441
Nagaland	16,579	12,486	362
Odisha	1,55,707	51,619	4,648
Punjab	50,362	1,849	1,592
Rajasthan	3,42,239	16,630	8,112
Sikkim	7,096	3,342	36
Tamil Nadu	1,30,060	26,364	4,830
Telangana	1,12,077	20,582	2,514
Tripura	10,486	7,726	231
Uttar Pradesh	2,40,928	14,806	7,342
Uttarakhand	53,483	24,303	841
West Bengal	88,752	16,902	2,006
A&N Islands	8,249	6,743	41
Chandigarh	114	22.03	25
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	207	28
Daman & Diu	111	20.49	5
Lakshadweep	30	27.10	0.29
Puducherry	490	52.41	23
Grand Total	**32,87,469**	**7,12,249**	**95,027**