

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 1790
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 17.03.2022

Conservation of forest in Uttarakhand

1790. SHRI NARESH BANSAL:

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

- (a) whether Government has made an assessment of the reduction in forest area in the State of Uttarakhand in the last decade, if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether Government has held consultations with the Stake-holders in Uttarakhand with respect to proposed amendments in Forest Conservation Act, 1980; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially since 1987 and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The forest cover assessment is a wall-to-wall mapping exercise based on remote sensing supported by intensive ground verification and field data from National Forest Inventory. As per the ISFR 2021, the forest cover of Uttarakhand is 24,305 square kilometre, showing an increase of 2 (Two) square kilometre as compared to the previous assessment i.e. ISFR 2019. However, the forest cover of the State of Uttarakhand has decreased by 191 square kilometre in the last decade. The details of forest cover from ISFR 2011 to ISFR 2021 is given in **Annexure**. The loss in forest cover in Uttarakhand may be attributed mainly to anthropogenic and development activities, apart from natural calamities like rains, floods and landslides.
- (b) & (c) The Ministry has received suggestions from various Ministries, State Governments and stakeholders regarding amendments in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In this regard, a public Consultation paper containing the details on the proposed amendments was circulated for inviting comments/suggestions from various stakeholders including those in the Uttarakhand in October, 2021.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1790 due for answer on 17.03.2022 regarding 'Conservation of forest in Uttarakhand'.

Details of forest cover of Uttarakhand State from ISFR 2011 to ISFR 2021

(Area in square kilometre)				
India State of Forest Report	Geographical area	Forest Cover	Percentage of Geographical area	Change in forest cover wrt previous assessment
ISFR 2011	53,483	24,496	45.80	-
ISFR 2013		24,508	45.82	12
ISFR 2015		24,272	45.38	-236
ISFR 2017		24,295	45.43	23
ISFR 2019		24,303	45.44	8
ISFR 2021		24,305	45.44	2