

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1793
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2022

Reasons for forest degradation

1793. SHRI N.R. ELANGO:

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

- (a) whether vegetation degradation of approximately 96 per cent, caused by deforestation and overgrazing, is the major reason for forest degradation;
- (b) if so, steps that are proposed to be taken by Government keeping in view the fact that forest remains the most vulnerable to degradation, and also that 30 per cent or a little more than 21 million hectares (mha) is degraded in the country; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) ,(b) &(c) Vegetation degradation is caused by various factors including anthropogenic factors i.e. urbanization, grazing, development and natural factors like flood, landslides and excessive rain. 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 ISFR 2021, there is an overall increase of 1540 square kilometre of forest cover at the national level as compared to the previous assessment i.e. ISFR 2019.

In order to increase the forest cover in the country, afforestation programmes have been taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes. In addition, State and UT Governments have their own afforestation and reforestation programmes.
