

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 994
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 10.02.2022

Forest area in the country

994. SHRI JOHN BRITTAS:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the total area of forest has gone up in the country during the last five years;
- (b) if so, the area of forest in each State with the details of progression and regression; and
- (c) the details thereof and 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. The ISFR-2021 has been recently released by the Ministry on 13th January, 2022. The changes in forest cover of the country in last 5 years is given in the following table:-

(Area in square kilometre)

India State of Forest Report	Geographical Area	Forest Cover	Percentage of Geographical Area
ISFR 2015	32,87,469	7,01,495	21.34%
ISFR 2017		7,08,273	21.54%
ISFR 2019		7,12,249	21.67%
ISFR 2021		7,13,789	21.71%

As per latest ISFR-2021, the total forest cover of the country has increased by 12,294 square kilometre in the last seven years (ISFR-2015 to ISFR-2021).

(b) & (c) The details of State and Union Territory wise forest cover since 2015 assessment are given at **Annexure**. There has been increase in forest cover in some States while there has been decrease in forest cover in some States as per ISFR 2021.

The gain in Forest cover or improvement in forest canopy density may be attributed to conservation measures, afforestation activities, enhanced protection measures in plantation as well as in traditional forest areas and expansion of trees outside forest whereas, loss in forest cover may be attributed due to harvesting of short rotational plantations, shifting cultivation, biotic pressure, clearance in encroached area and developmental activities.

Annexure

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 994
due for answer on 10.02.2022 regarding 'Forest area in the country'**

State-wise details of Forest Cover from ISFR 2015 to ISFR 2021

(Area in square kilometre)

States/UTs	Geographical area	ISFR 2015	ISFR 2017	ISFR 2019	ISFR 2021
		Total Forest Cover	Total Forest Cover	Total Forest Cover	Total Forest Cover
Andhra Pradesh*	162,968	26,006	28,147	29,137	29,784
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	67,154	66,964	66,688	66,431
Assam	78,438	27,538	28,105	28,327	28,312
Bihar	94,163	7,254	7,299	7,306	7,381
Chhattisgarh	135,192	55,559	55,547	55,611	55,717
Delhi	1,483	188.77	192.41	195.44	195
Goa	3,702	2,210	2,229	2,237	2,244
Gujarat	196,244	14,710	14,757	14,857	14,926
Haryana	44,212	1,580	1,588	1,602	1,603
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	14,707	15,100	15,434	15,443
Jharkhand	79,716	23,524	23,553	23,611	23,721
Karnataka	191,791	36,449	37,550	38,575	38,730
Kerala	38,852	19,278	20,321	21,144	21,253
Madhya Pradesh	308,252	77,426	77,414	77,482	77,493
Maharashtra	307,713	50,699	50,682	50,778	50,798
Manipur	22,327	17,083	17,346	16,847	16,598
Meghalaya	22,429	17,262	17,146	17,119	17,046
Mizoram	21,081	18,717	18,186	18,006	17,820
Nagaland	16,579	12,939	12,489	12,486	12,251
Odisha	155,707	50,460	51,345	51,619	52,156
Punjab	50,362	1,771	1,837	1,849	1,847
Rajasthan	342,239	16,106	16,572	16,630	16,655
Sikkim	7,096	3,353	3,344	3,342	3,341
Tamil Nadu	130,060	26,208	26,281	26,364	26,419
Telangana	112,077	19,854	20,419	20,582	21,214
Tripura	10,486	7,890	7,726	7,726	7,722
Uttar Pradesh	240,928	14,401	14,679	14,806	14,818
Uttarakhand	53,483	24,272	24,295	24,303	24,305
West Bengal	88,752	16,826	16,847	16,902	16,832
A&N Islands	8,249	6,751	6,742	6,743	6,744
Chandigarh	114	21.66	21.56	22.03	22.88
Dadra & Nagar Haveli #	491	206	207	207	207.31
Daman & Diu #	111	19.61	20.49	20.49	20.44
Jammu & Kashmir**	222,236	22,988	23,241	21,122	21,387
Ladakh		0	0	2,490	2,272
Lakshadweep	30	27.06	27.10	27.10	27.10
Puducherry	490	56.95	53.67	52.41	53.30
Grand Total	3,287,469	701,495	708,273	712,249	713,789

* From ISFR 2015 onwards Andhra Pradesh was divided into two States viz. Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

** From ISFR 2019 onwards Jammu & Kashmir was divided into two UTs viz. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

From ISFR 2021 onwards Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu have been combined into one UT.

