

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 1830
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2022

India State of Forest Report, 2021

1830. SHRI RAM SHAKAL:

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

- (a) whether Government has released the India State of Forest Report(ISFR),2021;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the area of land lying vacant with various departments of Government?

ANSWER

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

- (a) India State of Forest Report-2021 (ISFR-2021) prepared by the Forest Survey of India, an organisation under the Ministry, was released on 13th January, 2022.
- (b) The Salient findings of the ISFR -2021 are as follow:-
 - (i) Forest and Tree Cover of the country are increasing.
 - The total forest and tree cover of the country as per 2021 assessment is 8,09,537 square kilometre which is 24.62 % of the geographical area of the country.
 - The current assessment shows an increase of 1,540 square kilometre of forest cover, 721 square kilometre of tree cover and 2,261 square kilometre of Forest and tree cover put together, at the national level as compared to the previous assessment i.e. ISFR 2019.
 - The Very Dense Forest has increased by 501 square kilometre as compared to last assessment.
 - The top five States in terms of increase in forest cover are Andhra Pradesh (647 square kilometre), Telangana (632 square kilometre), Odisha (537 square kilometre), Karnataka (155 square kilometre) and Jharkhand (110 square kilometre). The positive change are increase in vegetation, which can 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.

- Major loss in Forest Cover is observed in Arunachal Pradesh (257 square kilometre), Manipur (249 square kilometre), Nagaland (235 square kilometre), Mizoram (186 square kilometre) and Meghalaya (73 square kilometre). The negative change correspondent to decrease in forest cover due to harvesting of short rotational plantations, shifting cultivation, biotic pressure, clearance in encroached area and developmental activities.

(ii) Mangrove cover of the country has shown a positive change.

- Mangrove eco-systems are rich in biodiversity and provide a number of ecological services. They also play a major role in protecting coastal areas from erosion, tidal storms and tsunamis.
- The current assessment shows that mangrove cover in the country is 4,992 square kilometre, which is 0.15 % of the country's total geographical area.
- There has been a net increase of 17 square kilometre in the mangrove cover of the country as compared to 2019 assessment. The States showing significant gain in mangrove cover are Odisha (8 square kilometre) and Maharashtra (4 sq km).

(iii) Growing stock has gone up both inside and outside forest.

- The total growing stock of wood in the country is estimated as 6,167.50 million cum comprising 4,388.15 million cum inside forest areas and 1,779.35 million cum outside recorded forest areas. The average growing stock per hectare in forest has been estimated as 56.60 cubic metre. There is total increase of 251.74 million cum in the growing stock of the country as compared to the estimates reported in ISFR 2019.

(iv) Carbon stock in forest is increasing.

- The carbon stock for 2021 has been estimated as 7,204.0 million tonnes. There is an increase of 79.4 million tonnes of carbon stock as compared to the estimates of last assessment of 2019. The annual increase is 39.7 million tonnes, which is 145.6 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.

(v) Bamboo stock is increasing.

- The total bamboo bearing area of the country is estimated as 1,49,443 square kilometre. The total estimated green weight of bamboo culms at national level is 402 million tonnes. As compared to the estimate of ISFR-2019, an increase of about 124 million tonnes equivalent green weight of bamboo has been observed in the present assessment.

(c) The area of land lying vacant with various departments of Government is not collated by this Ministry.
