

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 987
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2022

Deforestation in Odisha

987. SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN:

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

- (a) whether deforestation has increased in the State of Odisha in recent years, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government is running any scheme to stop deforestation;
- (c) if so, the schemes being implemented and the extent to which they are effective; and
- (d) whether Government is running any special awareness campaign for this purpose in rural areas?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Protection and management of forests is primarily the responsibility of concerned State/UT Governments, and various afforestation activities and forest protection measures are being taken up by the states to increase the forest cover and for sustainable management of the forests as per approved working plans. As per report received from the state of Odisha, deforestation in the state has not increased in recent years, and due to implementation of various afforestation schemes and forest protection measures the forest cover in the state has increased during 2017 to 2021 as detailed below:

Year	Forest Cover (in Sq. Km.)	Percentage of Geographical Area	Increase of Forest Cover (Comparing to previous year ISFR) in Sq.Km.
2017	51,345	32.98	885
2019	51,619	33.15	274
2021	52,156	33.50	537

- (b)& (c) The Ministry is implementing various afforestation schemes to increase the forest cover in the country namely Green India Mission, Nagar Van Yojana, Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority, and under various schemes of line ministries namely Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes, National Bamboo Mission, National Agro-forestry Policy and Sub-mission on Agro-forestry (SMAF) etc. and also under various plan schemes of the states/ UTs. The multi departmental efforts have yielded good results in conserving forest and environment by addressing the problem of deforestation, besides keeping the pace of development, which is evident from the fact that the forest cover in the country has been constantly increasing over the years. As per the latest ISFR 2021, the total forest cover of the country has increased by 12,294 square kilometres in the last seven years (ISFR 2015 to ISFR 2021).
- (d) As per report received from State of Odisha, awareness programs are being taken up for prevention of shifting cultivation (Podu), fire protection and anti-poaching etc. involving Vana Samrakshana Samiti Members, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) members and NGOs in the rural areas through pamphlets, meetings, posters, Nukkad Natak etc., and also through capacity building and training programs of forest staff and villagers.
