

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO: 243\***  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2023

**Data on forest cover in the country**

243. SHRI MOHAMMED NADIMUL HAQUE:

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

- (a) the total forest cover in the country at present, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the total forest cover that the country has lost in the last ten years;
- (c) whether the definition of forest in the Forest Survey of India's report inflates the country's forest cover beyond the original forest cover, if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the total forest cover that is predominantly under agriculture or urban land use, State-wise?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)**

(a) to (d) The statement is laid on the table of the House.

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**Statement refer to in reply to part (a) to (d) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 243 due for reply on 23/03/2023 regarding ‘Data on forest cover in the country’ by Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque:**

(a) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change carries out biennial assessment of forest cover of the country through the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun. This assessment is being carried out by Forest Survey of India, since 1987 and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). As per latest ISFR 2021, the total forest cover of the country is 7,13,789 square kilometers which is 21.72% of the geographical area of the country. The current assessment shows that the total forest cover of the country has increased by 1540 square kilometre at the national level as compared to the previous assessment i.e. ISFR 2019. The State/UTs wise details of forest cover as per ISFR 2021 is given in **Annexure I**.

(b) There has been no loss in the total forest cover of the Country, during the last ten years. In fact, the total forest cover in the country has increased by 21,762 square kilometers during the period, as per ISFR-2021 and ISFR- 2011. The details are given below:-

<b>India State of Forest Report</b>	<b>Forest Cover</b>
ISFR 2021	7,13,789 square kilometre
ISFR 2011	6,92,027 square kilometre
Increase in forest cover	21,762 square kilometre

(c) The term forest cover has been clearly defined and specified in the India State of Forest Report (ISFR).As per the ISFR 2021, the term “Forest Cover” refers to “all lands, more than one hectare in area, with a tree canopy density of more than 10 percent, irrespective of ownership and legal status. Such lands may not necessarily be a recorded forest area. It also includes orchards, bamboo and palm”.

(d) The India State of Forest Report publishes information on forest cover both inside and outside the ‘Recorded Forest Area’. In the ISFR-2021, an area of 1,97,159 square kilometers has been assessed to be present outside ‘Recorded Forest Area’ which predominantly consists of agriculture, rural, urban and other landscapes. The state wise forest cover assessed outside ‘Recorded Forest Area’ is placed at **Annexure-II**.

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**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 243  
due for answer on 23.03.2023 regarding 'Data on forest cover in the country'**

**State/UTs details of Forest Cover as per ISFR 2021**

(Area in square kilometre)

S. No.	State/UT	Geo-graphical Area (GA)	Total Forest Cover	Percentage of Geographical area	Change in Forest Cover w.r.t ISFR 2019	Change Percentage w.r.t. 2019 assessment	Scrub
1	Andhra Pradesh	1,62,968	29,784	18.28	647	2.22	8,276
2	Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	66,431	79.33	-257	-0.39	797
3	Assam	78,438	28,312	36.09	-15	-0.05	228
4	Bihar	94,163	7,381	7.84	75	1.03	236
5	Chhattisgarh	1,35,192	55,717	41.21	106	0.19	615
6	Delhi	1,483	195.00	13.15	-0.44	-0.23	0.38
7	Goa	3,702	2,244	60.62	7	0.31	0
8	Gujarat	1,96,244	14,926	7.61	69	0.46	2,828
9	Haryana	44,212	1,603	3.63	1	0.06	159
10	Himachal Pradesh	55,673	15,443	27.73	9	0.06	322
11	Jharkhand	79,716	23,721	29.76	110	0.47	584
12	Karnataka	1,91,791	38,730	20.19	155	0.40	4,611
13	Kerala	38,852	21,253	54.70	109	0.52	30
14	Madhya Pradesh	3,08,252	77,493	25.14	11	0.01	5,457
15	Maharashtra	3,07,713	50,798	16.51	20	0.04	4,247
16	Manipur	22,327	16,598	74.34	-249	-1.48	1,215
17	Meghalaya	22,429	17,046	76.00	-73	-0.43	663
18	Mizoram	21,081	17,820	84.53	-186	-1.03	1
19	Nagaland	16,579	12,251	73.90	-235	-1.88	824
20	Odisha	1,55,707	52,156	33.50	537	1.04	4,924
21	Punjab	50,362	1,847	3.67	-2	-0.11	34
22	Rajasthan	3,42,239	16,655	4.87	25	0.15	4,809
23	Sikkim	7,096	3,341	47.08	-1	-0.03	296
24	Tamil Nadu	1,30,060	26,419	20.31	55	0.21	758
25	Telangana	1,12,077	21,214	18.93	632	3.07	2,911
26	Tripura	10,486	7,722	73.64	-4	-0.05	33
27	Uttar Pradesh	2,40,928	14,818	6.15	12	0.08	563
28	Uttarakhand	53,483	24,305	45.44	2	0.01	392
29	West Bengal	88,752	16,832	18.96	-70	-0.41	156
30	A & N Islands	8,249	6,744	81.75	1	0.01	1
31	Chandigarh	114	22.88	20.07	0.85	3.86	0.38
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	602	227.75	37.83	0.10	0.04	4.85
33	Jammu & Kashmir	2,22,236	21,387	39.15	29	0.14	284
34	Ladakh		2,272	1.35	18	0.80	279
35	Lakshadweep	30	27.10	90.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
36	Puducherry	490	53.30	10.88	0.89	1.70	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>32,87,469</b>	<b>7,13,789</b>	<b>21.71</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>46,539</b>

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (d) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 243  
due for answer on 23.03.2023 regarding 'Data on forest cover in the country'**

The State/UTs wise forest cover assessed outside 'Recorded Forest Area'

(Area in square kilometre)

S. No.	State/UT	Geo-graphical Area (GA)	Total Forest Cover Outside Recorded Forest Area
1	Andhra Pradesh	1,62,968	5,545
2	Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	7,751
3	Assam	78,438	8,309
4	Bihar	94,163	2,550
5	Chhattisgarh	1,35,192	13,250
6	Delhi	1,483	135.83
7	Goa	3,702	1,024
8	Gujarat	1,96,244	5,091
9	Haryana	44,212	1,229
10	Himachal Pradesh	55,673	4,799
11	Jharkhand	79,716	11,439
12	Karnataka	1,91,791	16,182
13	Kerala	38,852	11,574
14	Madhya Pradesh	3,08,252	12,721
15	Maharashtra	3,07,713	14,758
16	Manipur	22,327	1,765
17	Meghalaya	22,429	2,248
18	Mizoram	21,081	264
19	Nagaland	16,579	3,623
20	Odisha	1,55,707	19,470
21	Punjab	50,362	1,059
22	Rajasthan	3,42,239	4,095
23	Sikkim	7,096	1,287
24	Tamil Nadu	1,30,060	8,888
25	Telangana	1,12,077	2,518
26	Tripura	10,486	2,289
27	Uttar Pradesh	2,40,928	5,675
28	Uttarakhand	53,483	7,520
29	West Bengal	88,752	9,720
30	A & N Islands	8,249	536
31	Chandigarh	114	14.18
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	602	67.73
33	Jammu & Kashmir	2,22,236	8,211
34	Ladakh		1,472
35	Lakshadweep	30	27.10
36	Puducherry	490	52.30
<b>Total</b>		<b>32,87,469</b>	<b>1,97,159</b>

