

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO: 365*
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2023

Status of forests in India

365. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted a study regarding the status of forests in India as more than ten years have passed since the previous ICFRE evaluation, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government is aware that the forest cover in the North-Eastern States is declining and if so, the steps taken to prevent it?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement refer to in reply to part (a) to (b) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 365 due for reply on 06/04/2023 regarding 'Status of forests in India' by Shri Sujeet Kumar:

- (a) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change through the Forest Survey of India (FSI) carries out biennial forest cover assessment, 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 kilometer which is 21.72% of the geographical area of the country. The ISFR 2021 brings out that the total forest cover of the country has increased by 1540 square kilometer as compared to the previous assessment of ISFR 2019. The State/UTs wise details of forest cover as per ISFR 2021 are given in **Annexure I**.
- (b) As per the ISFR 2021, the forest cover of North Eastern region has shown an overall decrease of 1020 square kilometer as compared to the previous assessment of ISFR 2019. The details of change in forest cover in North Eastern States from ISFR 2017 to ISFR 2021 are given in **Annexure II**. The loss in forest cover in North Eastern region may be attributed mainly to natural calamities, anthropogenic pressure and developmental activities.

Conservation and Protection of forests is primarily the responsibility of concerned State Government and UT Administration as per the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and rules made there under, and also under State Specific Acts and Rules.

In order to restore ecosystems and increase the forest cover in the country, afforestation and tree plantation activities are undertaken by States/UTs. The Ministry provides financial assistance to States/UTs under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely Green India Mission to support and supplement the efforts of States and Union Territories.

The Ministry is implementing Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) since the year 2020 which envisages creation of 600 Nagar Vans and 400 Nagar Vatika in the country during the period 2020-21 to 2024-25 under the funds available under National Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA). The Nagar Van Yojana aims to enhance the green cover in the urban and peri-urban areas including biological diversity, provide ecological benefits and improve the quality of life of city dwellers.

The Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA fund) are being utilized by States/UTs for taking up compensatory afforestation as per approved Annual Plan of Operations for compensating the loss of forest & tree cover due to diversion of forest land for developmental projects as per provisions of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 (CAF Act) and CAF Rules, 2018.

Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes and schemes of line Ministry such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Bamboo Mission, Sub-Mission on Agroforestry etc. and under schemes of State Government/UT Administration through different departments, Non-Government Organizations, Civil Society, Corporate bodies etc. The multi departmental efforts have yielded good results in conserving and enhancing forest cover in the country.

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 365
due for answer on 06.04.2023 regarding 'Status of forests in India'**

State/UTs details of Forest Cover as per ISFR 2021

(Area in square kilometer)

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
Total		32,87,469	7,13,789	21.71	1,540	0.22	46,539

Annexure-II

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 365
due for answer on 06.04.2023 regarding 'Status of forests in India'**

Forest Cover in North Eastern States from ISFR 2017 to ISFR 2021

State	ISFR 2017 (a)	ISFR 2019 (b)	ISFR 2021 (c)	(Area in square kilometer)	
				Change in Forest Cover w.r.t. ISFR 2019 (c-b)	Change in Forest Cover w.r.t. ISFR 2017 (c-a)
Arunachal Pradesh	66,964	66,688	66,431	-257	-533
Assam	28,105	28,327	28,312	-15	207
Manipur	17,346	16,847	16,598	-249	-748
Meghalaya	17,146	17,119	17,046	-73	-100
Mizoram	18,186	18,006	17,820	-186	-366
Nagaland	12,489	12,486	12,251	-235	-238
Sikkim	3,344	3,342	3,341	-1	-3
Tripura	7,726	7,726	7,722	-4	-4
Total	1,71,306	1,70,541	1,69,521	-1,020	-1,785