

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 1812
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 16.03.2023

Unexpected increase in forest cover

1812. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been an unexpected increase in the forest cover across the country during the last three years, if so, the State-wise details thereof; and
- (b) the total number of trees having been planted from different sources during the last three years and the number of trees having gone dead out of them?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The 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). As per latest ISFR 2021, the total forest cover of the country is 7,13,789 square kilometre which is 21.71% of the geographical area of the country. The trend for the last three ISFRs shows an increase in Forest cover of the country. The forest cover has increased by 3,976 square kilometre between ISFR 2017 and ISFR 2019 assessment while there is an increase of 1,540 square kilometre between ISFR 2019 and ISFR 2021 assessment. The State wise details of increase in Forest Cover between ISFR 2017, ISFR 2019 and ISFR 2021 are given in **Annexure**.
- (b) Afforestation targets under 20 Point Programme of Item No 51-Afforestation - 51(a)-Area Covered under plantation on - Public and Forest Lands (Hectare) & 51(b)-Number of Seedlings to be planted on - Public and Forest Lands (Number) are fixed annually by the Ministry to all States/UTs. These targets are achieved collectively by the States/UTs through various programmes of the Central Government Schemes, State Government plan and non-plan schemes and plantation efforts by NGOs, Private organizations, Civil Societies etc. The number of seedlings planted during the last three years per the data reported by the States is as under:

Year	Number of Seedlings Planted in Lakhs
2019-20	15427.02
2020-21	13968.65
2021-22	11800.66

No specific evaluation studies on the survival percentage of plantations under taken through various schemes and programmes, year wise have been carried out.

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1812
due for answer on 16.03.2023 regarding ‘Unexpected increase in forest cover’
State/UTs wise details of change in Forest Cover from ISFR 2017 to ISFR 2019**

(Area in Square Kilometre)

States/UTs	Geographical area	Forest Cover			Change in Forest Cover between ISFR 2017 & ISFR 2019 (b-a)	Change in Forest Cover between ISFR 2019 & ISFR 2021 (c-b)
		ISFR 2017 (a)	ISFR 2019 (b)	ISFR 2021 (c)		
Andhra Pradesh	1,62,968	28,147	29,137	29,784	990	647
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	66,964	66,688	66,431	-276	-257
Assam	78,438	28,105	28,327	28,312	222	-15
Bihar	94,163	7,299	7,306	7,381	7	75
Chhattisgarh	1,35,192	55,547	55,611	55,717	64	106
Delhi	1,483	192.41	195.44	195	3.03	-0.44
Goa	3,702	2,229	2,237	2,244	8	7
Gujarat	1,96,244	14,757	14,857	14,926	100	69
Haryana	44,212	1,588	1,602	1,603	14	1
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	15,100	15,434	15,443	334	9
Jharkhand	79,716	23,553	23,611	23,721	58	110
Karnataka	1,91,791	37,550	38,575	38,730	1025	155
Kerala	38,852	20,321	21,144	21,253	823	109
Madhya Pradesh	3,08,252	77,414	77,482	77,493	68	11
Maharashtra	3,07,713	50,682	50,778	50,798	96	20
Manipur	22,327	17,346	16,847	16,598	-499	-249
Meghalaya	22,429	17,146	17,119	17,046	-27	-73
Mizoram	21,081	18,186	18,006	17,820	-180	-186
Nagaland	16,579	12,489	12,486	12,251	-3	-235
Odisha	1,55,707	51,345	51,619	52,156	274	537
Punjab	50,362	1,837	1,849	1,847	12	-2
Rajasthan	3,42,239	16,572	16,630	16,655	58	25
Sikkim	7,096	3,344	3,342	3,341	-2	-1
Tamil Nadu	1,30,060	26,281	26,364	26,419	83	55
Telangana	1,12,077	20,419	20,582	21,214	163	632
Tripura	10,486	7,726	7,726	7,722	0	-4
Uttar Pradesh	2,40,928	14,679	14,806	14,818	127	12
Uttarakhand	53,483	24,295	24,303	24,305	8	2
West Bengal	88,752	16,847	16,902	16,832	55	-70
A&N Islands	8,249	6,742	6,743	6,744	1	1
Chandigarh	114	21.56	22.03	22.88	0.47	0.85
Dadra & Nagar Haveli #	491	207	207	227.75	0	0.26
Daman & Diu #	111	20.49	20.49		0	
Jammu & Kashmir*	2,22,236	23,241	21,358	21,387	-1883	29
Ladakh		0	2,254	2,272	2254	18
Lakshadweep	30	27.10	27.10	27.10	0	0
Puducherry	490	53.67	52.41	53.30	-1.26	0.89
Grand Total	32,87,469	7,08,273	7,12,249	7,13,789	3,976	1,540

* 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.

