

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 2609
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2023

Forest cover in Jharkhand

2609. SHRI DEEPAK PRAKASH:

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

- (a) the details of actual forest cover available in the State of Jharkhand as against the targets set during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether a great deal of forest felling has been carried out in the State;
- (c) if so, the details of the areas where the deterioration of forests has taken place during the last three years and the reasons responsible therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to prevent further deterioration of forest cover in the country?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest cover 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 details of forest cover of Jharkhand from ISFR 2017 to ISFR 2021 is as below:-

Year	Forest Cover of Jharkhand (Sq km)
ISFR 2017	23,553
ISFR 2019	23,611
ISFR 2021	23,721

- (b) & (c) There is no deterioration in the forest cover in the State of Jharkhand. Infact, there is an increase of 110 square kilometre of forest cover as per ISFR 2021 with respect to previous assessment i.e. ISFR 2019. The details are given in **Annexure-I**.

- (d) Conservation and Protection of forests is primarily the responsibility of concerned State Government and UT Governments 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.

Under various afforestation programmes implemented under central and state government schemes including National Mission for Green India and CAMPA, planting of local species are promoted.

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 400 Nagar Vans and 200 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-I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2609 due for answer on 23.03.2023 regarding 'Forest Cover in Jharkhand'

'Changes in forest cover in the State of Jharkhand'

Year	(Area in Square Kilometre) Total Forest Cover
ISFR 2021	23,721
ISFR 2019	23,611
Total increase	110
