

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 1700
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2023

India State of Forest Report 2021

1700. DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the 'India State of Forest Report 2021' which suggests segregation within the Indian forestry sector, as the area designated as forest does not fulfil the qualification of being forest as per the Forest Conservation Act, 1980;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to deal with the destruction of forest area; and
- (c) what is the Government's justification for its claims of increasing forest cover when there is little evidence to support it?

ANSWER

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

(a) The India State of Forest Report (ISFR) provides information on Forest Cover (inside & outside Recorded Forest Area) which includes all lands, more than one hectare in area, with a tree canopy density of more than 10 percent irrespective of ownership and legal status.

(b) The Protection and management of forests is primarily the responsibility of concerned State Governments /UT Administrations which take appropriate actions under 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. Further, the Ministry provides technical and financial assistance to States/UTs under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely Green India Mission (GIM), Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme, CAMPA, Nagar Van Yojana including other schemes of line Ministries to increase the forest and tree cover of the country.

(c) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun carries out the assessment of forest cover biennially, since 1987 by using remote sensing techniques. The analysis of forest cover and changes thereof are further extensively validated through Joint verification with the State Forest Departments and ground truthing.

As per India State of Forest Reports published by FSI, Forest Cover of the country is showing an increasing trend since 2017, as given in the following table:-

(Area in square kilometer)

S. No.	India State of Forest Report	Total Forest Cover	Increase in Forest Cover w.r.t. previous Assessment
1	2017	7,08,273	6,778
2	2019	7,12,249	3,976
3	2021	7,13,789	1,540

Further, the total forest and tree cover of the country as per ISFR 2021 assessment is 8,09,537 square kilometer which is 24.62% of the geographical area of the country. The total forest and tree cover put together has increased by 2261 square kilometer as compared to ISFR 2019 assessment.
