

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 868**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2023

**Decreasing forest cover in the country**

868. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that forest cover is decreasing at a rapid pace;
- (b) the total geographical area declared as forest by Government, State-wise figures (in hectares) since 2018 to 2023; and
- (c) steps and measures taken by Government to increase forest cover in the country, details thereof?

**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 kilometer which is 21.71% of the geographical area of the country. The forest cover has increased by 1,540 square kilometer between ISFR 2019 and ISFR 2021 assessment. The State/UTs wise details of forest cover as per ISFR 2021 are given in **Annexure-I**. 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 the ISFR 2019 assessment.

(b) State Government/UT Administration notifies any area as forest land. The 'Recorded Forest Area' covers all such lands which have been notified as forest under any Government Act or Rules or recorded as 'forest' in the Government records. Recorded forest area may or may not have forest cover. The State/UTs wise information of 'Recorded Forest Area' published in ISFR-2019 and ISFR-2021 is given in **Annexure-II**.

(c) To 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 (GIM) to support and supplement the efforts of States and Union Territories. GIM activities were started in the

Financial Year 2015-16. So far, a sum of Rs. 755.28 Crores has been released to seventeen States and one union territory for creation of plantation over an area of 153125 hectare.

The Ministry has also implemented Centrally Sponsored Scheme, National Afforestation programme for regeneration of degraded forest and adjoining areas in the country. Under the scheme, an amount of Rs. 108.57 crore has been released during the years 2019-20 to 2021-22. National Afforestation Programme is now stands merged with Green India Mission.

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 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) is 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. During the last five years, an amount of Rs. 55,394.16 Crore has been released to State/UT Forest Department under CAMPA funds.

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.

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**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 868  
due for answer on 27.07.2023 regarding 'Decreasing forest cover in the country'**

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

(Area in square kilometer)

S. No.	State/UT	Geo-graphical Area (GA)	Total Forest Cover	Percent age of Geogra phical 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 (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 868  
due for answer on 27.07.2023 regarding 'Decreasing forest cover in the country'**

**State/UTs wise details of 'Recorded Forest Area' as per India State of Forest Report**

(Area in hectares)				
S. No.	State/UT	Geo-graphical Area (GA)	Total Recorded Forest Area as per ISFR- 2021	Total Recorded Forest Area as per ISFR- 2019
1	Andhra Pradesh	1,62,968,00	37,258,00	37,258,00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	83,743,00	51,540,00	51,407,00
3	Assam	78,438,00	26,836,00	26,832,00
4	Bihar	94,163,00	7,442,00	6,877,00
5	Chhattisgarh	1,35,192,00	59,816,00	59,772,00
6	Delhi	1,483,00	10,300	10,200
7	Goa	3,702,00	1,271,00	1,225,00
8	Gujarat	1,96,244,00	21,870,00	21,647,00
9	Haryana	44,212,00	1,559,00	1,559,00
10	Himachal Pradesh	55,673,00	37,948,00	37,033,00
11	Jammu & Kashmir	222,236,00	20,206,00	20,230,00
12	Jharkhand	79,716,00	25,118,00	23,605,00
13	Karnataka	1,91,791,00	38,284,00	38,284,00
14	Kerala	38,852,00	11,522,00	11,309,00
15	Madhya Pradesh	3,08,252,00	94,689,00	94,689,00
16	Maharashtra	3,07,713,00	61,952,00	61,579,00
17	Manipur	22,327,00	17,418,00	17,418,00
18	Meghalaya	22,429,00	94,96,00	94,96,00
19	Mizoram	21,081,00	74,79,00	56,41,00
20	Nagaland	16,579,00	86,23,00	86,23,00
21	Odisha	1,55,707,00	61,204,00	61,204,00
22	Punjab	50,362,00	30,84,00	30,84,00
23	Rajasthan	3,42,239,00	32,863,00	32,737,00
24	Sikkim	7,096,00	58,41,00	58,41,00
25	Tamil Nadu	1,30,060,00	23,188,00	22,877,00
26	Telangana	1,12,077,00	27,688,00	26,904,00
27	Tripura	10,486,00	6,294,00	6,294,00
28	Uttar Pradesh	2,40,928,00	17,384,00	16,582,00
29	Uttarakhand	53,483,00	38,000,00	38,000,00
30	West Bengal	88,752,00	11,879,00	11,879,00
31	A & N Islands	8,249,00	71,71,00	71,71,00
32	Chandigarh	11,400	3500	3500
33	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	60,200	21,400	20,400
34	Lakshadweep	3000	0	0
35	Puducherry	49,000	1300	1300
<b>Total</b>		<b>32,87,469,00</b>	<b>7,75,288,00</b>	<b>7,67,419,00</b>

