

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 61
ANSWERED ON 08.02.2024

Forest cover in the country

61. SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:

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

- (a) the names of States where forest cover has increased/decreased during the last three years, State/ UT-wise;
- (b) the details of the schemes implemented by Government during the last three years to increase forest cover and develop new forest areas in various cities of the country, State/UT-wise including Puducherry; and
- (c) whether Government has any scheme to increase forest coverage on the basis of their utility and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c) The statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement refer to in reply to part (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 61 due for reply on 08/02/2024 regarding 'Forest cover in the country' by Shri S. Selvaganabathy:

- (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). The forest cover assessment is a wall-to-wall mapping exercise based on remote sensing supported by intensive ground verification and field data from National Forest Inventory. 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 current assessment shows that the total forest cover of the country has increased by 1540 square kilometre, tree cover has increased by 721 square kilometre and total forest and tree cover has increased by 2261 square kilometre at the national level as compared to the previous assessment i.e. ISFR 2019. The names of States and UTs where forest cover has increased during the last three years are given at **Annexure I** and where forest cover has decreased during the last three years are given at **Annexure II**.
- (b) The Ministry is implementing Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) since the year 2020 which envisages creation of 600 Nagar Vans and 400 Nagar Vatikas in the country during the period 2020-21 to 2026-27. The objective of this scheme is to enhance the forest and green cover in the urban and peri-urban areas including biological diversity and to provide ecological benefits and improve the quality of life of city dwellers. The funds for the scheme is made available from Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA). The State and UT wise detail of funds released under Nagar Van Yojana are enclosed at **Annexure III**.
- (c) The Ministry implements various schemes namely Green India Mission (GIM), activities under Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA) etc. to enhance soil and water conservation inside forest areas and for meeting the demand of timber, non-timber forest produce and fuel wood of local communities and wood based industries. This also helps in improving the recreational value of forests, wildlife habitats and wildlife population besides increasing forest cover. The GIM is one of the schemes under the National Mission for Green India which is one of the eight Missions outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. It aims at protecting, restoring and enhancing India's forest cover and responding to Climate Change by undertaking plantation activities in the forest and non-forest areas. The GIM activities were started during the year 2015-16. The State and UT wise detail of funds released under Green India Mission are enclosed at **Annexure IV**.

The Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA) are being utilized by States and UTs for taking up various afforestation activities through planting of native species and for protection of forest and wildlife as per approved Annual Plan of Operations. These activities are taken up for compensating the loss of forest and 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. The details of the Annual Plan of Operations approved for the States and UTs under CAMPA are enclosed at **Annexure V**.

Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programs and schemes of line Ministries, such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Bamboo Mission, Sub-Mission on Agroforestry etc. and under various schemes of State Governments and UT Administrations. Afforestation activities are also taken up by Non-Government Organizations, Civil Society, Corporate bodies etc. The collective efforts have yielded good results in conserving forest and environment by addressing the problem of deforestation, besides keeping the pace of development. This is evident from the fact that the forest cover has stabilized and has been constantly increasing over the years. As per the latest ISFR 2021, the total forest cover of the country has increased by 12,294 square kilometres in the last seven years (ISFR 2015 to ISFR 2021).

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 61 due for answer on 08.02.2024 regarding 'Forest cover in the country'

States/UTs details of increase in Forest Cover between ISFR 2019 and ISFR 2021

(Area in square kilometre)

S. No.	States/UTs	Geographical area	ISFR	ISFR	Change in Forest Cover between ISFR 2021 & ISFR 2019 (b) – (a)
			2019 (a)	2021 (b)	
1	Andhra Pradesh	1,62,968	29,137	29,784	647
2	Bihar	94,163	7,306	7,381	75
3	Chhattisgarh	1,35,192	55,611	55,717	106
4	Goa	3,702	2,237	2,244	7
5	Gujarat	1,96,244	14,857	14,926	69
6	Haryana	44,212	1,602	1,603	1
7	Himachal Pradesh	55,673	15,434	15,443	9
8	Jharkhand	79,716	23,611	23,721	110
9	Karnataka	1,91,791	38,575	38,730	155
10	Kerala	38,852	21,144	21,253	109
11	Madhya Pradesh	3,08,252	77,482	77,493	11
12	Maharashtra	3,07,713	50,778	50,798	20
13	Odisha	1,55,707	51,619	52,156	537
14	Rajasthan	3,42,239	16,630	16,655	25
15	Tamil Nadu	1,30,060	26,364	26,419	55
16	Telangana	1,12,077	20,582	21,214	632
17	Uttar Pradesh	2,40,928	14,806	14,818	12
18	Uttarakhand	53,483	24,303	24,305	2
19	A&N Islands	8,249	6,743	6,744	1
20	Chandigarh	114	22.03	22.88	0.85
21	Dadra & Nagar Haveli [#]	491	207.16	227.75	0.10
22	Daman & Diu [#]	111	20.49		
23	Jammu & Kashmir*	2,22,236	21,358	21,387	29
24	Ladakh*		2,254	2,272	18
25	Lakshadweep	30	27.1	27.1	0
26	Puducherry	490	52.41	53.3	0.89

[#] From ISFR 2021 onwards Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu have been combined into one UT.

* From ISFR 2019 onwards Jammu & Kashmir was divided into two UTs viz. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 61 due for answer on 08.02.2024 regarding 'Forest cover in the country'

States/UTs details of decrease in Forest Cover between ISFR 2019 and ISFR 2021

(Area in square kilometre)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Geographical area	ISFR	ISFR	Change in Forest Cover between ISFR 2021 & ISFR 2019 (b) – (a)
			2019 (a)	2021 (b)	
1	Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	66,688	66,431	-257
2	Assam	78,438	28,327	28,312	-15
3	Delhi	1,483	195.44	195	-0.44
4	Manipur	22,327	16,847	16,598	-249
5	Meghalaya	22,429	17,119	17,046	-73
6	Mizoram	21,081	18,006	17,820	-186
7	Nagaland	16,579	12,486	12,251	-235
8	Punjab	50,362	1,849	1,847	-2
9	Sikkim	7,096	3,342	3,341	-1
10	Tripura	10,486	7,726	7,722	-4
11	West Bengal	88,752	16,902	16,832	-70

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 61 due for answer on 08.02.2024 regarding 'Forest Cover in the country'

States and UTs wise fund released under Nagar Van Yojana

(Rupees in Crore)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (as on 02.02.2024)
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.56	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	1.17	3.58	58.38
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0.56	0
4	Assam	1.69	0	0
5	Bihar	1.01	1.38	0.44
6	Chandigarh	0	0.13	0
7	Chhattisgarh	8.30	0	0
8	Goa	1.43	0	0.61
9	Gujarat	2.97	2.03	0
10	Haryana	4.49	0	0
11	Himachal Pradesh	1.66	3.19	0
12	Jammu & Kashmir	1.38	3.64	1.07
13	Jharkhand	2.36	17.62	1.45
14	Karnataka	1.40	0	2.60
15	Kerala	10.55	0	0
16	Madhya Pradesh	10.14	11.75	0
17	Maharashtra	1.56	1.93	0
18	Manipur	1.43	0	0
19	Meghalaya	0	2.42	0
20	Mizoram	2.84	17.66	1.21
21	Nagaland	1.29	0	4.57
22	Odisha	20.30	0	0
23	Punjab	2.62	0	2.65
24	Rajasthan	4.44	8.48	0.73
25	Sikkim	0	3.91	0
26	Tamil Nadu	5.93	6.30	0
27	Telangana	0	5.85	0
28	Tripura	3.53	0	1.51
29	Uttar Pradesh	19.68	0.06	0
30	Uttarakhand	1.68	0.86	0
31	West Bengal	1.02	0.72	1.58
	Total	115.53	92.13	76.85

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question 61 due for answer on 08.02.2024 regarding 'Forest cover in the country'

States and UTs wise fund released under Green India Mission

(Rupees in Crore)

Sl. No.	States	2021- 22	2022-23	2023-24 (as on 02.02.2024)
1	Andhra Pradesh	2.02	0	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	13.43	21.28	0
3	Chhattisgarh	6.12	0	0
4	Haryana	9.55	0	5.19
5	Jammu & Kashmir	0	6.49	0
6	Karnataka	4.45	2.93	2.33
7	Madhya Pradesh	18.29	17.93	8.62
8	Manipur	9.93	5.45	8.91
9	Mizoram	29.86	36.27	21.13
10	Odisha	17.74	8.48	0
11	Punjab	3.32	2.74	5.38
12	Sikkim	7.77	6.57	7.50
13	Uttarakhand	33.99	28.40	21.61
14	West Bengal	0	0.76	0.76
15	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	5.43
	Total	156.46	137.29	86.86

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question 61 due for answer on 08.02.2024 regarding 'Forest Cover in the country'

Annual Plan of Operations of States and UTs approved by CAMPA

(Rupees in Crore)

S. No.	State/UT	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (as on 31.12.2023)
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	10.97	6.70
2.	Andhra Pradesh	325.00	224.09	227.82
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	240.85	196.93	136.65
4.	Assam	79.12	162.57	109.69
5.	Bihar	106.84	115.42	37.88
6.	Chandigarh	5.14	1.56	1.54
7.	Chhattisgarh	1500.75	688.47	471.36
8.	Daman and Diu and Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Delhi	16.15	33.93	47.15
10.	Goa	21.55	36.53	31.28
11.	Gujarat	169.00	205.40	250.02
12.	Haryana	317.59	270.68	69.02
13.	Himachal Pradesh	138.10	190.23	185.14
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	257.16	312.69	287.53
15.	Jharkhand	437.60	764.83	412.13
16.	Karnataka	321.06	270.98	311.61
17.	Kerala	25.13	17.26	9.06
18.	Madhya Pradesh	616.88	899.84	1070.60
19.	Maharashtra	688.27	708.11	597.57
20.	Manipur	25.09	22.59	20.26
21.	Meghalaya	36.40	26.67	31.19
22.	Mizoram	18.08	16.74	14.60
23.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Odisha	901.03	1191.31	948.04
25.	Punjab	218.06	203.01	257.10
26.	Rajasthan	286.70	249.19	288.18
27.	Sikkim	70.00	92.85	62.07
28.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	38.22	42.17
29.	Telangana	752.71	772.65	446.31
30.	Tripura	35.24	52.90	85.77
31.	Uttar Pradesh	586.90	344.08	153.92
32.	Uttarakhand	726.88	320.15	366.80
33.	West Bengal	58.30	52.83	79.40
34.	Ladakh	0.00	0.00	60.55
	Total	8981.58	8493.68	7119.11