

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO: 184
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2024

Steps taken to stop deforestation

184* SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA:

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

- (a) the total land declared as forest land in the country, as on date;
- (b) the extent of deforestation (in hectares) taken place in the last ten years in the country, especially in the hilly areas; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to stop deforestation in the name of development?

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 referred to in reply to part (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 184 due for reply on 08.08.2024 regarding 'Steps taken to stop deforestation' by Shri Narain Dass Gupta:

- (a) 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 the India State of Forest Report (ISFR). As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, the total Recorded Forest Area in the country is **7,75,288 square kilometer**.
- (b) During the last 10 years, 173396.87 Ha. (**1733.97 square kilometer**) of the forest land has been approved for diversion under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for different development activities including hilly areas. The State/UT wise details have been given in the **Annexure**.

However, an increase of 21,761.98 square kilometre in forest cover of the country has been reported in ISFR 2021 as compared to ISFR 2011.

- (c) The diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes is regulated as per the provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Whenever the Central Government accords approval for the use of forest land for non-forestry purposes, the cost of the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) and the Net Present Value (NPV) of the land is realised from the User Agency as per norms. Moreover, additional mitigation measures such as Soil and Moisture Conservation works, Catchment Area Treatment Plans and Wildlife Management plans, etc. are also stipulated as per the requirement. The compensatory levies realized from the user agencies are utilized for taking compensatory afforestation and other eco-restoration activities as per the provisions of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016.

Protection and sustainable management of the forests are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. For this purpose, various legal and regulatory measures have been introduced. These are National Forest Policy, 1988, Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980, and Biological Diversity Act, 2002, etc.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 184 due for answer on 08.08.2024 regarding 'Steps taken to stop deforestation'

State/UT wise forest land approved for use of land non-forestry purpose under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980			
Category: All Categories		Period: 01.04.2014 to 31.03.2024	
S. No.	STATE / UTs	No. of Proposals	Forest land approved (in Ha.)
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	25	123.20
2	Andhra Pradesh	90	5455.99
3	Arunachal Pradesh	99	9495.98
4	Assam	32	1720.17
5	Bihar	418	2780.64
6	Chandigarh	7	40.72
7	Chhattisgarh	87	7925.79
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu	53	64.50
9	Delhi	12	116.92
10	Goa	30	324.13
11	Gujarat	1698	9985.15
12	Haryana	2591	3526.41
13	Himachal Pradesh	478	3554.74
14	Jammu and Kashmir	55	577.30
15	Jharkhand	137	8353.42
16	Karnataka	202	2991.62
17	Kerala	107	172.89
18	Madhya Pradesh	1244	38552.61
19	Maharashtra	271	8498.35
20	Manipur	42	3111.40
21	Meghalaya	9	176.92
22	Mizoram	25	627.64
23	Odisha	233	24458.89
24	Punjab	1927	3717.23
25	Rajasthan	378	8796.22
26	Sikkim	55	254.43
27	Tamil Nadu	103	703.79
28	Telangana	149	11422.47
29	Tripura	123	1298.57
30	Uttar Pradesh	988	7059.23
31	Uttarakhand	771	6471.89
32	West Bengal	55	1037.66
Grand Total		12494	173396.87