

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 1968
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2024

Loss of forest cover in the country

1968 SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH:

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

- (a) the details of the forest cover in the country, since 2019, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) whether the loss of forest cover increases the emission of carbon dioxide, if so, the details of carbon dioxide emission caused due to forest cover loss in the country, since 2019;
- (c) the justifications Government has for the contradictions between India State of Forest Report 2021 and Global Forest Watch data; and
- (d) whether Government plans to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 again, given the severe criticism of the recent amendment for removing protections from deemed and community forests?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest cover biennially. 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 State/UTs wise details of forest cover as per ISFR, since 2019 are given in **Annexure**.
- (b) The forest cover increased by 1540 square kilometer during 2019 to 2021. There is no loss of forest cover during 2019 and 2021. Therefore, the question of increase in emission of carbon dioxide due to loss of forest cover does not arise.
- (c) The contradictions between India State of Forest Report 2021 and Global Forest Watch data may be due to difference in the definition of forest cover and tree cover adopted in these two reports.
- (d) At present there is no plan to amend the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhniyam, 1980.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1968 due for answer on 08.08.2024 regarding 'Loss of forest cover in the country'

States/UTs wise details of change in Forest Cover from ISFR 2019 to ISFR 2021

(Area in square kilometre)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	ISFR 2019	ISFR 2021
1	Andhra Pradesh	29,137	29,784
2	Arunachal Pradesh	66,688	66,431
3	Assam	28,327	28,312
4	Bihar	7,306	7,381
5	Chhattisgarh	55,611	55,717
6	Delhi	195	195
7	Goa	2,237	2,244
8	Gujarat	14,857	14,926
9	Haryana	1,602	1,603
10	Himachal Pradesh	15,434	15,443
11	Jharkhand	23,611	23,721
12	Karnataka	38,575	38,730
13	Kerala	21,144	21,253
14	Madhya Pradesh	77,482	77,493
15	Maharashtra	50,778	50,798
16	Manipur	16,847	16,598
17	Meghalaya	17,119	17,046
18	Mizoram	18,006	17,820
19	Nagaland	12,486	12,251
20	Odisha	51,619	52,156
21	Punjab	1,849	1,847
22	Rajasthan	16,630	16,655
23	Sikkim	3,342	3,341
24	Tamil Nadu	26,364	26,419
25	Telangana	20,582	21,214
26	Tripura	7,726	7,722
27	Uttar Pradesh	14,806	14,818
28	Uttarakhand	24,303	24,305
29	West Bengal	16,902	16,832
30	A&N Islands	6,743	6,744
31	Chandigarh	22	23
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	227	228
33	Jammu & Kashmir & Ladakh	*23,612	23,659
34	Lakshadweep	27	27
35	Puducherry	52	53
Grand Total		7,12,249	7,13,789

* The report of ISFR 2019 reported combined forest cover of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh..