

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1966**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2024

**India State of Forest Report**

1966 SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the India State of Forest Report (ISFR), a biennial report, was supposed to be released in January 2024, if so, the reasons for the delay in releasing the ISFR 2023 report;
- (b) the total area of forest in hectares lost and recovered through compensatory afforestation lost since 2019 across the country; and
- (c) whether the increase in the area of unrecorded and deemed forests exempted under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 2023 is counted in the actual forest increase, if so, the details thereof?

**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 since 1987 and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The reason for delay in publication of India State of Forest Report 2023 is due to inclusion of 751 districts in the report instead of 638 districts included in earlier reports.
- (b) Diversion of the forest lands for non-forestry purposes requires prior approval of the Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam 1980. During the period from 01.04.2019 to 31.03.2024 the Ministry has accorded approval for the diversion of 95724.99 ha of forest land for different non-forestry purposes.

Under provisions of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016, the National Authority has approved an area of 252,000.44 hectares for taking up compensatory afforestation (CA) under the various Annual Plan of Operations (APOs) submitted by the States/UTs from year 2019 to 2024.

- (c) As per ISFR, the forest cover 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. Such lands may not necessarily be a recorded forest area. It also includes orchards, bamboo and palm.

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