

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO: 216
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025

Forest and tree cover growth as per ISFR, 2023

216*. DR. K. LAXMAN:

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

- (a) the manner in which India's forest and tree cover has grown as per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023 and the key achievements in terms of geographical area and growing stock;
- (b) the progress made in increasing bamboo bearing areas and timber production potential outside forests; and
- (c) the manner in which the current carbon stock in India's forests contribute to achieve the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) target for carbon sequestration by 2030?

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.216 due for reply on 20.03.2025 regarding 'Forest and tree cover growth as per ISFR, 2023' by Dr. K. Laxman

- (a) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, carries out the assessment of forest and tree cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in the 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 the National Forest Inventory.

As per ISFR 2023, the total forest and tree cover of the country is 8,27,356.95 square kilometer which is 25.17 per cent of the geographical area of the country. The details of findings in terms of forest and tree cover and growing stock as per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2023 as compared to ISFR 2021 are as under:

- (i) Forest Cover of the country is 7,15,343 square kilometre (21.76% of Geographical area), which shows an increase of 156 square kilometre as compared to previous assessment.
 - (ii) Tree Cover of the country is 1,12,014 square kilometre (3.41% of Geographical area), which shows an increase of 1289 square kilometre as compared to previous assessment.
 - (iii) The Total forest and tree cover of the country is 8,27,357 square kilometre (25.17% of Geographical area), which shows an increase of 1446 square kilometre as compared to previous assessment.
 - (iv) Total Growing Stock of wood in the country is 6,429 million cubic meter, which shows an increase of 262 million cubic meter (4.25%) as compared to previous assessment.
- (b) As per ISFR 2023, the total bamboo bearing area of the country is 1,54,670 square kilometer. There is an increase of 5,227 square kilometer in the bamboo bearing area of the country as compared to the previous assessment reported in ISFR, 2021.

Further, as per ISFR 2023, the current estimates of annual potential production of Industrial wood from Tree Outside Forests (TOF) area has been estimated as 91.51 million cubic meter as compared to 69.04 million cubic meter in ISFR 2017.

- (c) India had committed the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030. As per the current assessment in ISFR 2023, the country has already achieved an additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes with respect to 2005 as Base Year in forest and tree cover.
