

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 1638
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2025

Forest area in the country

1638. MS. INDU BALA GOSWAMI:

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

- (a) the percentage of total forest area in the country in 2014 and the percentage of forest area currently of the country's total geographical area;
- (b) the details of the efforts made by Government to increase forest area in the last five years;
- (c) whether there has been any increase in the total forest area in the Himachal Pradesh; and
- (d) if so, the details of total area increased?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (d) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, carries out the assessment of forest cover biennially since 1987 and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR).

As per ISFR 2015, the total forest and tree cover was 7,94,245 square kilometre, constituting 24.16% of the geographical area of the country. Currently, as per ISFR 2023, the total forest and tree cover is 8,27,357 square kilometer, which is 25.17% of the geographical area of the country.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issues advisories to State Governments/UT Administrations to protect forests and trees as per the provisions of the law. Further, in order to protect forests, various measures are taken by the State Forest Departments, which include survey and demarcation of forest areas, fixing of pillars along forest boundary and regular patrolling by field staff.

In addition, the Ministry provides technical and financial support to the States /UTs for protection, conservation and management of forests in the country. For afforestation, the Government provides funds under various schemes and

programmes such as National Mission for a Green India (GIM), Development of Wildlife Habitats(DWH) and Nagar Van Yojana (NVY). Afforestation is also carried out by the States/UTs under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). Over the last five years, Rs 624.69 Crore has been released under GIM; Rs 452.04 Crore under Development of Wildlife Habitats; Rs 308.87 Crore under Nagar Van Yojana and Rs 38,502.21 Crore under Annual Plan of Operations under CAMPA. These funds supports the efforts of the States and UTs for ecological restoration through afforestation in and outside forest areas, forest landscape restoration, habitat improvement, soil and water conservation measures, and protection etc.

Further, as per information received from Himachal Pradesh Forest Department, the Forest Department is doing afforestation/forest protection activities and soil and water conservation activities every year to increase forest cover in the Himachal Pradesh.

As per the India State of Forest Report 2023, the total forest and tree cover in the State of Himachal Pradesh has increased by 96.45 square kilometer as compared to the previous assessment i.e. ISFR 2021.
