

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3080
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2025

Forest area in the country

3080. DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:

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

- (a) whether there has been an increase in the total forest area of the country during the last five years and if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Tamil Nadu;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to increase the forest land in the country during the last five years; and
- (c) the details of various schemes to increase the forest area and the amount of funds released thereunder by Government to the State of Tamil Nadu during the last five years?

ANSWER

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

- (a)to(c) 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). Based on information received from the States/UTs, information on the recorded forest areas are also published in the ISFR.

As per ISFR 2023, the total recorded forest area of the country is 7,75,377 square kilometer which is 23.59 per cent of the geographical area of the country. The current assessment shows an increase of 7,958 square kilometer in the recorded forest area as compared to the ISFR 2019. The State/UT wise recorded forest areas of the country, including Tamil Nadu as per ISFR 2019 and ISFR 2023 is given in **Annexure**.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change while regulating the diversion of forest land for various developmental purposes under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980; various mitigation measures including the Compensatory Afforestation (CA) on non-forest areas are ensured, wherever applicable. Such non-forest area as part of the compensatory afforestation under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, are notified as forest area in the State under the relevant Central Act/ State Act. Further, State Government and Union Territory Administration also identify the appropriate lands for notification as protected forests, reserved forests under the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or the respective State Acts. Under these all such conditions, total recorded forest areas in a State may increase.

Annexure referred to in reply (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3080 due for answer on 27.03.2025 regarding Forest area in the country asked by Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu.

State-wise/UT wise recorded forest areas as per ISFR 2019 and ISFR 2023

(Area in square kilometre)

State/UT	Geographical Area	ISFR 2019	ISFR 2023	Change between ISFR 2019 & ISFR 2023
Andhra Pradesh	1,62,968	37,258	37,258	0
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	51,407	51,540	133
Assam	78,438	26,832	26,836	4
Bihar	94,163	6,877	7,442	565
Chattisgarh	1,35,192	59,772	59,816	44
Delhi	1,483	102	104	2
Goa	3,702	1,225	1,271	46
Gujarat	1,96,244	21,647	21,870	223
Haryana	44,212	1,559	1,559	0
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	37,033	37,948	915
Jharkhand	79,716	23,605	25,118	1,513
Karnataka	1,91,791	38,284	38,284	0
Kerala	38,852	11,309	11,522	213
Madhya Pradesh	3,08,252	94,689	94,689	0
Maharashtra	3,07,713	61,579	61,952	373
Manipur	22,327	17,418	17,418	0
Meghalaya	22,429	9,496	9,508	12
Mizoram	21,081	5,641	7,479	1,838
Nagaland	16,579	8,623	8,632	9
Odisha	1,55,707	61,204	61,204	0
Punjab	50,362	3,084	3,084	0
Rajasthan	3,42,239	32,737	32,869	132
Sikkim	7,096	5,841	5,841	0
Tamil Nadu	1,30,060	22,877	23,188	311
Telangana	1,12,077	26,904	27,688	784
Tripura	10,486	6,294	6,295	1
Uttar Pradesh	2,40,928	16,582	17,435	853
Uttarakhand	53,483	38,000	38,000	0
West Bengal	88,752	11,879	11,885	6
A&N Islands	8,249	7,171	7,171	0
Chandigarh	114	35	35	0
Dadra & Nagar Haveli Daman & Diu#	602	204	217	5
		8		
Jammu & Kashmir**	2,22,236	20,230	20,199	-24
Ladakh			7	
Lakshadweep	30	0	0	0
Puducherry	490	13	13	0
Grand Total	32,87,469	7,67,419	7,75,377	7,958

**From ISFR 2019 onwards Jammu & Kashmir was divided into two UTs viz. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

From ISFR 2021 onwards Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu have been combined into one UT.