

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 367
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2025

Steps to bring more area under green cover

367. SHRI JAGGESH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Forest Policy 1988, mandates that 33 per cent of India's geographical area should be under forest or tree cover;
- (b) whether growth in country's forest cover has slowed down considerably in the recent past;
- (c) the details of the country's geographical area under tree and forest cover, State-wise;
- (d) whether Government has taken steps to protect and bring more area under green cover; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The National Forest Policy (NFP) 1988 envisages the national goal to have a minimum of one-third of the total land area under forest or tree cover and two-thirds of the area under such cover in the hill and mountainous regions of the country.
- (b) As per latest India State of Forest Report (ISFR) - 2023 published by Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, the total tree and forest cover of the country is 8,27,356.95 square kilometre which is 25.15% of the geographical area of the country. The tree and forest cover of the country has increased by 1445.81 square kilometre as compared with the previous assessment report of ISFR 2021.
- (c) The State-wise details of India's geographical area under tree and forest cover is given in **Annexure-I**.
- (d) & (e) The protection and management of forests is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Government has formulated adequate legal and regulatory

frameworks at national and state levels, which regulate the protection, conservation, and management of the forests of the country. The major central level policy and legislations concerning the management and conservation of forests include the National Forest Policy, 1988, Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980, and Biological Diversity Act, 2002, etc.

To bring more areas under green cover, the Government is implementing various schemes such as such as National Mission for a Green India (GIM), Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) and Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI). The schemes primarily support ecological restoration through afforestation in and outside forest areas, forest landscape restoration, habitat improvement, soil and water conservation measures and protection etc.

The tree plantation campaign “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” was launched by Hon’ble Prime Minister on 5th June 2024 to undertake plantation activities across the country.

Annexure I

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 367
due for answer on 06.02.2025 regarding 'Steps to bring more area under green cover'**

**State/UT wise details of Forest and Tree Cover in the country as per ISFR 2023
(Area in sq. Km.)**

State/UTs	Geographical Area	Forest Cover	Tree Cover	Total Forest Cover including Tree Cover
Andhra Pradesh	1,62,922.57	30,084.96	5,340.02	35,424.98
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743.22	65,881.57	1,201.63	67,083.20
Assam	78,438.00	28,313.55	2,101.46	30,415.01
Bihar	94,163.00	7,532.45	2,370.21	9,902.66
Chhattisgarh	1,35,192.00	55,811.75	6,538.70	62,350.45
Delhi	1,483.00	195.28	176.03	371.31
Goa	3,702.00	2,265.72	257.82	2,523.54
Gujarat	1,96,244.00	15,016.64	6,632.29	21,648.93
Haryana	44,212.00	1,614.26	1,693.02	3,307.28
Himachal Pradesh	55,673.00	15,580.35	855.07	16,435.42
Jharkhand	79,716.00	23,765.78	3,637.55	27,403.33
Karnataka	1,91,791.00	39,254.27	7,779.15	47,033.42
Kerala	38,852.00	22,059.36	2,905.94	24,965.30
Madhya Pradesh	3,08,252.11	77,073.44	8,650.14	85,723.58
Maharashtra	3,07,713.00	50,858.53	14,524.88	65,383.41
Manipur	22,327.00	16,585.46	209.82	16,795.28
Meghalaya	22,429.00	16,966.84	720.56	17,687.40
Mizoram	21,081.00	17,990.46	567.80	18,558.26
Nagaland	16,579.00	12,222.47	394.02	12,616.49
Odisha	1,55,707.00	52,433.56	6,163.45	58,597.01
Punjab	50,362.00	1,846.09	1,475.15	3,321.24
Rajasthan	3,42,238.99	16,548.21	10,841.12	27,389.33
Sikkim	7,096.00	3,358.40	48.33	3,406.73
Tamil Nadu	1,30,060.00	26,450.22	5,370.72	31,820.94
Telangana	1,12,122.44	21,179.04	3,517.66	24,696.70
Tripura	10,486.00	7,584.77	247.56	7,832.33
Uttar Pradesh	2,40,927.56	15,045.80	8,950.92	23,996.72

Uttarakhand	53,483.36	24,303.83	1,231.14	25,534.97
West Bengal	88,752.00	16,832.33	2,938.12	19,770.45
A&N Islands	8,249.00	6,732.92	26.97	6,759.89
Chandigarh	114.00	25.00	21.18	46.18
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	602.00	225.62	36.83	262.45
Jammu & Kashmir	2,22,236.00	21,346.39	3,666.97	25,013.36
Ladakh		2,285.92	893.02	3,178.94
Lakshadweep	29.63	27.06	0.20	27.26
Puducherry	490.00	44.31	28.89	73.20
Total	32,87,468.88	7,15,342.61	1,12,014.34	8,27,356.95