GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3738
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.04.2025

Forest and tree cover

3738. MS. INDU BALA GOSWAMI:

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

(a)   the extent of increase in the area of forest and tree cover, in kilometres, during the last five years; the details thereof;
(b)   the extent of increase in percentage in forest cover and tree cover, the details thereof;
(c)   the extent of the forest and tree cover out of the total geographical area of the country at present; and
(d)   the percentage of the area out of the total geographical area targeted to be kept lush green in the National Forest Policy?

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). 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 extent of 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. As per ISFR 2019, the total forest and tree cover was to the extent of 8,07,277.00 square kilometer, constituting 24.56 per cent of the geographical area of the country. Thus, there has been an overall increase of 20,079.95 square kilometer in the forest and tree cover in the last five years between ISFR 2019 to ISFR 2023. There is an increase of 2.48 per cent in forest cover and tree cover in ISFR 2023 as compared to ISFR 2019.

The National Forest Policy, 1988 envisages that a minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country should be under forest or tree cover.

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