

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3745**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.04.2025

**National Afforestation Programme**

3745 . SHRI MASTHAN RAO YADAV BEEDHA:

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted any study to assess the rate of decrease/increase in forest cover in the country and the reasons for the same, if so details of the finding;
- (b) the details regarding the States which are witnessing decreasing forest cover and States witnessing increasing forest cover in the past five years;
- (c) the details regarding the funds released under the National Afforestation Programme in the last five years, State-wise and district-wise for Andhra Pradesh; and
- (d) the details regarding the total amount of forest area recovered under the scheme in the last five years, State-wise and district-wise for Andhra Pradesh?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a)&(b) 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 total forest cover of the country is 7,15,342.61 square kilometer. The forest cover of the country has increased by 156.41 square kilometer as compared to last assessment of 2021. As per ISFR 2023, the key factors contributing to the increase in India's forest cover includes natural growth of vegetation, often due to conservation efforts; establishment of new vegetation through afforestation initiatives, improved protection measures in plantation and traditional forest areas , increase in trees growing outside designated forest areas, regeneration of areas under shifting cultivation, positive changes not discernible during previous cycle might also show up in the subsequent cycle due to growth in the intervening period, etc.

Further, the protection, conservation and management of forest and tree resources is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

The Ministry provides technical and financial support to the States/UTs for protection, conservation and management of forests in the country. For afforestation, the Ministry provides funds under various schemes and programmes such as National Mission for a Green India (GIM), Development of Wildlife Habitats (DWH), Forest Fire Prevention and Management Schemes (FPM), Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) and Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI). Afforestation is also carried out by the States/UTs under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (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.

It is a result of the comprehensive action taken regarding protection and conservation of forests as well as afforestation efforts that India's forest cover has increased by 3,093.61 square kilometer between ISFR 2019 & ISFR 2023. The States/UTs showing increase and decrease in the forest cover during the last four years are given in **Annexure-I** and **Annexure II** respectively.

- (c)&(d) National Afforestation Programme (NAP) had been the flagship afforestation scheme of the Ministry, implemented since year 2000 on pan India basis, for afforestation in identified degraded forest areas with people's participation and decentralised forest governance. In order to achieve the targeted objectives of national afforestation programmes, the Ministry has approved merger of NAP into Green India Mission (GIM) so that overall greening efforts are augmented. The State-wise details of fund released and work approved in hectares during the last five years under NAP including Andhra Pradesh is given in **Annexure-III**. District-wise details are not maintained by the Ministry.

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**Annexure-I**

**Annexure referred to in reply (a) to (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3745 due for answer on 03.04.2025 regarding National Afforestation Programme asked by Shri Masthan Rao Yadav Beedha:**

**State/UT showing increase in Forest Cover between ISFR 2019 to ISFR 2023  
(Area in square kilometer)**

State/UT	Forest Cover	
	ISFR 2019	ISFR 2023
Andhra Pradesh	29,137.00	30,084.96
Bihar	7,306.00	7,532.45
Chhattisgarh	55,611.00	55,811.75
Goa	2,237.00	2,265.72
Gujarat	14,857.00	15,016.64
Haryana	1,602.00	1,614.26
Himachal Pradesh	15,434.00	15,580.35
Jharkhand	23,611.00	23,765.78
Karnataka	38,575.00	39,254.27
Kerala	21,144.00	22,059.36
Maharashtra	50,778.00	50,858.53
Odisha	51,619.00	52,433.56
Sikkim	3,342.00	3,358.40
Tamil Nadu	26,364.00	26,450.22
Telangana	20,582.00	21,179.04
Uttar Pradesh	14,806.00	15,045.80
Uttarakhand	24,303.00	24,303.83
Chandigarh	22.03	25.00
Ladakh	2,254.00	2,285.92

**Annexure-II**

**Annexure referred to in reply (a) to (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3745 due for answer on 03.04.2025 regarding National Afforestation Programme asked by Shri Masthan Rao Yadav Beedha:**

**State/UT showing decrease in Forest Cover between ISFR 2019 to ISFR 2023  
(Area in square kilometer)**

State/UT	Forest Cover	
	ISFR 2019	ISFR 2023
Arunachal Pradesh	66,688.00	65,881.57
Assam	28,327.00	28,313.55
Delhi	195.44	195.28
Madhya Pradesh	77,482.00	77,073.44
Manipur	16,847.00	16,585.46
Meghalaya	17,119.00	16,966.84
Mizoram	18,006.00	17,990.46
Nagaland	12,486.00	12,222.47
Punjab	1,849.00	1,846.09
Rajasthan	16,630.00	16,548.21
Tripura	7,726.00	7,584.77
West Bengal	16,902.00	16,832.33
A&N Islands	6,743.00	6,732.92
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	227.49	225.62
Jammu & Kashmir	21,358.00	21,346.39
Lakshadweep	27.10	27.06
Puducherry	52.41	44.31

## Annexure-III

Annexure referred to in reply (c) to (d) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3745 due for answer on 03.04.2025 regarding National Afforestation Programme asked by Shri Masthan Rao Yadav Beedha:

State wise details of fund released and advance work approved under NAP during last five years

S. N	State	2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23*		2023-24*	
		Funds released (Rs. in crores)	Advance work approved (in ha)	Funds released (Rs. in crores)	Advance work approved (in ha)	Funds released (Rs. in crores)	Advance work approved (in ha)	Funds released (Rs. in crores)	Advance work approved (in ha)	Funds released (Rs. in crores)	Advance work approved (in ha)
1	Andhra Pradesh										
2	Bihar	1.18	1,935	0.80		4.30					
3	Chhattisgarh	5.71	3,500	9.88		5.56					
4	Goa										
5	Gujarat										
6	Haryana										
7	Himachal Pradesh	0.52	45	0.57							
8	Jammu & Kashmir										
9	Jharkhand										
10	Karnataka					9.01					
11	Kerala										
12	Madhya Pradesh			0.57							
13	Maharashtra										
14	Orissa	8.45	6,335	13.67		7.77					
15	Punjab										
16	Rajasthan				750						
17	Tamil Nadu										
18	Telangana										
19	Uttar Pradesh										
20	Uttarakhand			1.06							
21	West Bengal										
22	Arunachal Pradesh										
23	Assam										
24	Manipur										
25	Meghalaya										
26	Mizoram			7.40		5.14					
27	Nagaland	2.35	6,100	4.27		10.65				2.86	
28	Sikkim			0.88							
29	Tripura	3.76	1,809	1.33		3.75					
	<b>Total</b>	<b>21.98</b>	<b>19,724</b>	<b>40.42</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>46.17</b>					

\* Funds under NAP have been released till 2021-22 to the States/UTs except released to Nagaland in the year 2023-24 for committed liabilities

