

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1340
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2025

Increase in Forest Land

1340. SHRI G.C. CHANDRASHEKHAR:

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

- (a) the details of forest cover in the country as on date, State-wise;
- (b) whether any steps have been taken to increase the forest land in the country during the last five years;
- (c) the quantum of funds allocated for this purpose; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to enact a new law for the conservation of forests land, and if so, the details thereof?

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). 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 forest cover of the country is 7,15,342.61 square kilometer which is 21.76% of the total geographical area of the country. In the last four years, the forest cover has increased from 7,12,249.00 square kilometer in ISFR 2019 to 7,15,342.61 square kilometer in ISFR 2023. Thus there has been an increase of 3,093.61 square kilometer in the forest cover of the country between ISFR 2019 and ISFR 2023. The State/UT-wise forest cover as per ISFR 2023 is given in Annexure.

The Ministry provides technical and financial support to the States /UTs for protection, conservation and management of the forests in the country. This includes funds from the Central Government under various schemes and programmes such as National Mission for a Green India (GIM), Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme (FPM), Nagar Van Yojana (NVY), Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats 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).

The funds provided under the various schemes support the efforts of States and Union Territories to enhance forest and tree cover through ecological restoration measures such as afforestation within and outside forest areas, forest landscape restoration, habitat improvement, soil and water conservation, protection activities, and other related interventions.

During the last five years, an amount of ₹619 crore under the Green India Mission (GIM), ₹164.92 crore under FPM and ₹439.24 crore under Nagar Van Yojana has been released to the States/UTs. In addition, the Annual Plan of Operations of States/UTs for an amount of ₹40,404.46 crore has been approved by the National Authority CAMPA during last five years.

Further, a plantation campaign “एक पेड़ माँ के नाम #Plant4Mother” has been launched on the occasion of World Environment Day 2024 to undertake plantation activities across the country. This campaign follows the “Whole of Government” and “Whole of Society” approach with participation of all stakeholders for increasing the green cover in the country. The campaign has contributed large scale plantation aiding the enhancement of green cover in the country.

- (d) To provide for the conservation of forests, the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 was amended in 2023 which provides for measures related to the conservation of forest land.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply of (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1340 due for answer on 31.07.2025 regarding Increase in Forest Land asked by Shri G.C. Chandrashekhar

State/UT wise details of Forest Cover as per ISFR 2023

(In square kilometer)		
S.No.	State/UT	Forest Cover (ISFR 2023)
1	Andhra Pradesh	30,084.96
2	Arunachal Pradesh	65,881.57
3	Assam	28,313.555
4	Bihar	7,532.45
5	Chhattisgarh	55,811.75
6	Delhi	195.28
7	Goa	2,265.72
8	Gujarat	15,016.64
9	Haryana	1,614.26
10	Himachal Pradesh	15,580.35
11	Jharkhand	23,765.78
12	Karnataka	39,254.27
13	Kerala	22,059.36
14	Madhya Pradesh	77,073.44
15	Maharashtra	50,858.53
16	Manipur	16,585.46
17	Meghalaya	16,966.84
18	Mizoram	17,990.46
19	Nagaland	12,222.47
20	Odisha	52,433.56
21	Punjab	1,846.09
22	Rajasthan	16,548.21
23	Sikkim	3,358.40
24	Tamil Nadu	26,450.22
25	Telangana	21,179.04
26	Tripura	7,584.77
27	Uttar Pradesh	15,045.80
28	Uttarakhand	24,303.83
29	West Bengal	16,832.33
30	A&N Islands	6,732.92
31	Chandigarh	25
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	225.62
33	Jammu & Kashmir	21,346.39
34	Ladakh	2,285.92
35	Lakshadweep	27.06
36	Puducherry	44.31
	Grand Total	7,15,342.61
