

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3253
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.08.2025

Increase in forest cover

3253. MS. INDU BALA GOSWAMI:

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

- (a) whether there has been an increase in the forest cover across the country as compared to 2014;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details thereof; and
- (c) the amount allocated for the conservation of forest land in Himachal Pradesh during the last three 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). 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 ten years, the forest cover of the country has increased from 6,98,712.36 square kilometer to 7,15,342.61 square kilometer. Thus there has been an increase of 16,630.25 square kilometer in the forest cover of the country between ISFR 2013 and ISFR 2023. The State/UT wise details of the forest cover during last ten years 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. The funds provided under the various schemes support the efforts of States and Union Territories including Himachal Pradesh 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.

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) and Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats. Afforestation is also carried out by the States/UTs under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).

During the last three years, an amount of ₹2.96 crore under FPM and ₹4.86 crore under Nagar Van Yojana has been released to the State of Himachal Pradesh. No proposals had been received from the State Government in last three years. However, an amount of ₹17.09 crore was released under GIM to the State of Himachal Pradesh during the year 2020-21. In addition, the Annual Plan of Operations of States/UTs for an amount of ₹ 559.89 crore has been approved by the National Authority CAMPA during last three years.

Further, a plantation campaign “एक पेड़ माँ के नाम #Plant4Mother” has been launched on the occasion of World Environment Day 2024 and also during the current year 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 including Himachal Pradesh.

Annexure referred to in reply of part (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3253 due for answer on 21.08.2025 regarding Increase in forest cover asked by Ms. Indu Bala Goswami

**State/UT wise details of decadal change in Forest Cover
between 2013 and 2023 as per ISFR 2023**

(In square kilometer)

| Sl.No. | State/UT | Forest Cover (2013) | Forest Cover (2023) | Decadal Change in Forest Cover between 2013 & 2023 |
|--------|--|------------------------|------------------------|---|
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 26,043.53 | 30,084.96 | 4,041.43 |
| 2 | Arunachal Pradesh | 66,966.09 | 65,881.57 | -1,084.52 |
| 3 | Assam | 27,564.90 | 28,313.55 | 748.65 |
| 4 | Bihar | 7,283.55 | 7,532.45 | 248.90 |
| 5 | Chhattisgarh | 55,606.96 | 55,811.75 | 204.79 |
| 6 | Delhi | 180.32 | 195.28 | 14.96 |
| 7 | Goa | 2,219.00 | 2,265.72 | 46.72 |
| 8 | Gujarat | 14,507.77 | 15,016.64 | 508.87 |
| 9 | Haryana | 1,583.38 | 1,614.26 | 30.88 |
| 10 | Himachal Pradesh | 14,683.00 | 15,580.35 | 897.35 |
| 11 | Jharkhand | 23,815.38 | 23,765.78 | -49.60 |
| 12 | Karnataka | 36,170.68 | 39,254.27 | 3,083.59 |
| 13 | Kerala | 18,383.95 | 22,059.36 | 3,675.41 |
| 14 | Madhya Pradesh | 77,522.00 | 77,073.44 | -448.56 |
| 15 | Maharashtra | 50,632.00 | 50,858.53 | 226.53 |
| 16 | Manipur | 16,961.16 | 16,585.46 | -375.70 |
| 17 | Meghalaya | 17,241.48 | 16,966.84 | -274.64 |
| 18 | Mizoram | 18,978.16 | 17,990.46 | -987.70 |
| 19 | Nagaland | 13,017.35 | 12,222.47 | -794.88 |
| 20 | Odisha | 50,544.71 | 52,433.56 | 1,888.85 |
| 21 | Punjab | 1,790.78 | 1,846.09 | 55.31 |
| 22 | Rajasthan | 16,086.00 | 16,548.21 | 462.21 |
| 23 | Sikkim | 3,358.00 | 3,358.40 | 0.40 |
| 24 | Tamil Nadu | 24,245.21 | 26,450.22 | 2,205.01 |
| 25 | Telangana | 19,956.62 | 21,179.04 | 1,222.42 |
| 26 | Tripura | 7,948.65 | 7,584.77 | -363.88 |
| 27 | Uttar Pradesh | 14,359.72 | 15,045.80 | 686.08 |
| 28 | Uttarakhand | 24,508.00 | 24,303.83 | -204.17 |
| 29 | West Bengal | 1,7101.98 | 16,832.33 | -269.65 |
| 30 | A&N Islands | 6,711.00 | 6,732.92 | 21.92 |
| 31 | Chandigarh | 17.26 | 25.00 | 7.74 |
| 32 | Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu | 219.96 | 225.62 | 5.66 |
| 33 | Jammu & Kashmir | 20,948.27 | 21,346.39 | 398.12 |
| 34 | Ladakh | 1,478.00 | 2,285.92 | 807.92 |
| 35 | Lakshadweep | 27.02 | 27.06 | 0.04 |
| 36 | Puducherry | 50.52 | 44.31 | -6.21 |
| | Grand Total | 6,98,712.36 | 7,15,342.61 | 16,630.25 |
