GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1506
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.02.2026

Change in forest cover

1506. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY:

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

(a) the details of change in forest cover as indicated in India State of Forest Report (ISFR 2021 and 2023), State-wise/UT-wise;
(b) the details of dwindling forest cover in the country and the reasons therefor; and
(c) the State/UT-wise yearly targets and achievements under Green India Mission and Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam initiative since their launch?

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 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. The forest cover of the country has increased by 156.41 square kilometer as compared to the last assessment of ISFR 2021. The State/UT wise details of change in forest cover in the country is given in **Annexure-I**.

The positive changes in forest cover arise due to natural growth of vegetation, afforestation initiatives, improved protection of plantations and forest areas, increase in trees outside forests, and regeneration in shifting cultivation areas, while negative changes occur due to harvesting of short-rotation plantations, shifting cultivation, encroachment and natural calamities such as storms, floods and landslides.

(c) The National Mission for a Green India (GIM) is one of the eight Missions outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). The Mission aims at protecting, restoring, and enhancing India's forest and tree cover, while responding to the challenges of climate change through eco-restoration and plantation activities in both forest and non-forest areas.

The implementation of GIM commenced during 2015-16 and it is being implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme through the State Forest Departments, based on Annual Plans of Operation (APOs) approved by the Ministry. The State/UT wise yearly targets and achievements under the Green India Mission since its launch are placed at **Annexure-II (a) & II (b)** respectively.

A plantation campaign “एक पेड़ माँ के नाम # Plant4Mother” has been launched on the occasion of World Environment Day 2024 and in the current year also 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. Under the campaign, during the years 2024-25 and 2025-26, the cumulative progress reported by the States/UTs is more than 268 crore saplings, as against the combined target of plantation of 260 crore saplings for the said period

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Annexure I

Annexure referred to in reply of (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1506 due for answer on 12.02.2026 regarding 'Change in Forest Cover' asked by Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray.

State/UT wise change in forest cover between ISFR 2021 and ISFR 2023

(Area in Square kilometre)

S.No.	State /UT	Geographical Area (GA)	Total Forest Cover as per ISFR 2021	Total Forest Cover as per ISFR 2023	Change in forest cover between ISFR 2021 and ISFR 2023
1	Andhra Pradesh	1,62,922.57	30,223.62	30,084.96	-138.66
2	Arunachal Pradesh	83,743.22	65,972.74	65,881.57	-91.17
3	Assam	78,438.00	28,325.31	28,313.55	-11.76
4	Bihar	94,163.00	7,403.26	7,532.45	129.19
5	Chhattisgarh	1,35,192.00	55,830.88	55,811.75	-19.13
6	Delhi	1,483.00	195.36	195.28	-0.08
7	Goa	3,702.00	2,267.22	2,265.72	-1.50
8	Gujarat	1,96,244.00	14,836.57	15,016.64	180.07
9	Haryana	44,212.00	1,628.22	1,614.26	-13.96
10	Himachal Pradesh	55,673.00	15,525.62	15,580.35	54.73
11	Jharkhand	79,716.00	23,706.97	23,765.78	58.81
12	Karnataka	1,91,791.00	39,106.57	39,254.27	147.70
13	Kerala	38,852.00	21,925.94	22,059.36	133.42
14	Madhya Pradesh	3,08,252.11	77,444.98	77,073.44	-371.54
15	Maharashtra	3,07,713.00	50,913.00	50,858.53	-54.47
16	Manipur	22,327.00	16,640.29	16,585.46	-54.83
17	Meghalaya	22,429.00	16,996.84	16,966.84	-30.00
18	Mizoram	21,081.00	17,748.73	17,990.46	241.73
19	Nagaland	16,579.00	12,274.36	12,222.47	-51.89
20	Odisha	1,55,707.00	52,281.67	52,433.56	151.89
21	Punjab	50,362.00	1,846.54	1,846.09	-0.45
22	Rajasthan	3,42,238.99	16,632.01	16,548.21	-83.80
23	Sikkim	7,096.00	3,353.21	3,358.40	5.19
24	Tamil Nadu	1,30,060.00	26,511.18	26,450.22	-60.96
25	Telangana	1,12,122.44	21,279.46	21,179.04	-100.42
26	Tripura	10,486.00	7,680.08	7,584.77	-95.31
27	Uttar Pradesh	2,40,927.56	14,927.37	15,045.80	118.43
28	Uttarakhand	53,483.36	24,326.81	24,303.83	-22.98
29	West Bengal	88,752.00	16,782.11	16,832.33	50.22
30	A & N Islands	8,249.00	6,736.94	6,732.92	-4.02
31	Chandigarh	114.00	23.80	25.00	1.20
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	602.00	225.94	225.62	-0.32
33	Jammu & Kashmir	2,22,236.00	21,262.84	21,346.39	83.55
34	Ladakh		2,278.55	2,285.92	7.37
35	Lakshadweep	29.63	27.06	27.06	0.00
36	Puducherry	490.00	44.15	44.31	0.16
Total		**32,87,468.88**	**7,15,186.20**	**7,15,342.61**	**156.41**

Annexure II (a)

Annexure referred to in reply of (c) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1506 due for answer on 12.02.2026 regarding 'Change in Forest Cover' asked by Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray.

The State/UT-wise yearly targets under Green India Mission since its launch i.e. from 2015-16 onwards:

(Area in hectares)

Sl. No.	States	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total afforestation targets
1	Andhra Pradesh	-	534	-	2,203	-	-	1,656	-	-	**4,393**
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,777	-	-	**10,777**
3	Chhattisgarh	19,128	-	-	-	-	1,063	4,419	-	-	**24,610**
4	Haryana	-	-	-	-	-		1,568	-	-	**1,568**
5	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	5,480	-	-	-	**5,480**
6	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	2,327	-	1,891	-	**4,218**
7	Karnataka	760	-	-	600		560	515	360	-	**2,795**
8	Kerala	4,978	-	7,320	-	-	-	-	-	-	**12,298**
9	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	11,914	11,444	-	7,259	5,000	-	**35,617**
10	Maharashtra	-	-	-	6,766	-	-	-	-	-	**6,766**
11	Manipur	8,798		-	-	-	8,122	2,056	1,000	-	**19,976**
12	Mizoram		19,643			-	-	-	1,000	-	**20,643**
13	Odisha	2,178	21	21	6,965	7,450	-	2,108	2,030	-	**20,772**
14	Punjab	3,018	-	-	-	-	1,600	1,500	1,650	-	**7,768**
15	Sikkim	-	-	-	1,509	-	-	2,474	2,998	-	**6,981**
16	Uttarakhand	7,483	-	-	-	-	3,562	2,295	3,557	-	**16,897**
17	West Bengal	-	-	-	-	995	-	1,611		-	**2,606**
18	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,944	**20,944**
	Total	**46,343**	**20,198**	**7,341**	**29,957**	**19,889**	**22,714**	**38,238**	**19,486**	**20,944**	**2,25,109**

Annexure II (b)

Annexure referred to in reply of (c) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1506 due for answer on 12.02.2026 regarding 'Change in Forest Cover' asked by Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray.

The State/UT-wise yearly achievements under Green India Mission since its launch i.e. from 2015-16 onwards:

(Area in hectares)

Sl. No.	States	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total achievements
1	Andhra Pradesh	-	534	-	-	-	899	-	-	-	-	**1,433**
2	Arunachal Pradesh		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,412	902	**5,314**
3	Chhattisgarh	19,128	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**19,128**
4	Haryana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,301	-	-	**1,301**
5	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	574	556	169	**1,299**
6	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	-	951	115	712	-	**1,778**
7	Karnataka	760	-	-	600	-	560	405	397	-	-	**2,722**
8	Kerala	-	2,762	6,253	-	631	2,171	480	-		-	**12,297**
9	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	10,554	8,236	680	-	7,127	6,234	-	**32,831**
10	Maharashtra	-	-	-	5,223	-	-	-	-	-	-	**5,223**
11	Manipur	8,798		-	-	-	2,942	2,692	-	-	2,056	**16,488**
12	Mizoram		19,643	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**19,643**
13	Odisha	2,178	21	21	6,965	7,450	1,473	2,603	-	-	-	**20,711**
14	Punjab	-	1,286	1,732	-	-	1,100	875	1,575	600	-	**7,168**
15	Sikkim	-	-	-	1,509	-	-	2,474	2,584	-	-	**6,567**
16	Uttarakhand	-	-	-	7,483	-	-	1,706	3,297	2,350	-	**14,836**
17	West Bengal	-	-	-	-	-	-	995	1,611	-	-	**2,606**
18	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**
	Total	**30,864**	**24,246**	**8,006**	**32,335**	**16,317**	**9,825**	**13,181**	**18,581**	**14,864**	**3,127**	**1,71,345**