

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 47
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.01.2026

Expansion of forest and tree cover

47. SMT. SEEMA DWIVEDI:
SHRI AMAR PAL MAURYA:
SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY:
SHRI NARHARI AMIN:
SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA:
SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAAIAH:
SHRI SADANAND MHALU SHET TANAVADE:

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

- (a) the changes recorded in India's forest and tree cover, as per the latest India State of Forest Report;
- (b) the area covered through afforestation and tree plantation under Central schemes during the last three years;
- (c) whether satellite-based monitoring systems are being used for verification of plantation outcomes and plant survival rates; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) 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 and tree cover of the country is 8,27,356.95 square kilometer which is 25.17% of the geographical area of the country. The forest and tree cover of the country has increased by 1,445.81 square kilometer as compared to the last assessment of ISFR 2021.

- (b) The Ministry provides technical and financial support to States and Union Territories through various schemes and programmes of the Central Government for enhancement of forest cover including protection, conservation and management of forests in the country. This includes the National Mission for a Green India (GIM) and Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI).

During the last three years, under the GIM, plantation and eco-restoration activities have been undertaken over an area of 36,572 hectares, with a release of ₹350.67 crore to States and Union Territories.

Further, under the MISHTI, which was launched on 5 June 2023 and implemented from FY 2024-25 onwards, mangrove afforestation and restoration activities have been approved over 4,536 hectares of degraded mangrove areas along the coast of the country.

Further, a plantation campaign “एक पेड़ माँ के नाम # Plant4Mother” has also 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. The campaign has contributed large scale plantation aiding the enhancement of green cover in the country.

(c) & (d) Assessment of plantation outcomes and plant survival rates is carried out mainly through field-based verification by the implementing agencies. Remote sensing and satellite imagery are used, as appropriate, for monitoring changes in vegetation cover.
