

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1327
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2026

Diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes

1327 SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

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

- (a) the total area of forest land diverted for non-forest purposes and the total number of trees permitted to be felled during the last five years, year-wise, State-wise and project-wise, indicating the purpose of diversion;
- (b) the names of the top 50 projects involving the highest extent of forest land diversion and tree felling during the said period, indicating the area diverted, number of trees felled, user agency and present status of each project; and
- (c) whether Government has assessed the net loss of forest cover and carbon sequestration resulting from forest diversion for infrastructure projects and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): During last five years i.e. from 1.04.2021 to 31.03.2026, an area of 1,05,594.32 ha of forest land has been diverted for non-forest purposes in the country, under the provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The State-wise and project category wise details are enclosed at **Annexure-I** and **Annexure-II** respectively. Wherever diversion of forest land is unavoidable, prior approval of Central Government for use of such forest land is subject to various conditions and mitigation measures. These include undertaking Compensatory Afforestation (CA) in lieu of the forest land being diverted, payment of Net Present Value (NPV), Soil and Moisture Conservation measures, Wildlife Management Plans, and Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plans as applicable. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016 and its Rules, 2018, aim toward mitigating the loss of forest cover and associated ecosystem services resulting from the diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. Afforestation activities are implemented in accordance with the approved Annual Plan of Operations (APO), duly conforming to the provisions of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 and the CAF Rules, 2018, as well as the guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

The proposals for use of forest land for non-forestry purposes are processed online through PARIVESH portal (<https://parivesh.nic.in>). Information relating to forest land proposed for diversion, details of the User Agency, current status of proposals, etc. is available on the PARIVESH Portal. Further, the information regarding the number of trees felled under each project is maintained by the respective State/UT Governments.

(c): The 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 India State of Forest Report, (ISFR) 2023, the forest and tree cover of the country is 8,27,356.95 square kilometer which is 25.17% of the total geographical area of the country. The forest and tree cover of the country has increased by 1445.81 square kilometer as compared to the last assessment of ISFR 2021. Similarly, the carbon stock, as per ISFR, 2023, has been estimated as 7,285.5 million tonne. There is an increase of 81.5 million tonne of carbon stock as compared to the estimate of previous assessment.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in the answer to part (a) to (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1327 to be answered on 30.07.2026 regarding 'Diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes' by Shri Sanjay Singh.

State wise and year wise detail of forest land approved (in Ha.) for non-forestry purpose under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980							
Category :- All Category		During the Period: 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2026					Grand Total
S. No.	State / UTs	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	
1	Andaman and Nicobar	100.00	0.00	2.98	1.16	0.65	104.79
2	Andhra Pradesh	302.96	162.28	149.51	405.87	294.99	1315.62
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1669.60	1105.53	1296.45	2489.90	3548.53	10110.00
4	Assam	133.43	45.42	363.00	180.40	58.12	780.36
5	Bihar	145.08	467.88	10.47	7.88	9.64	640.94
6	Chandigarh	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.00	0.29
7	Chhattisgarh	1474.97	476.45	1069.26	1071.32	2078.36	6170.37
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli And Daman And Diu	2.56	0.00	37.97	12.84	19.54	72.90
9	Delhi	21.75	63.30	31.87	1.67	74.76	193.35
10	Goa	3.81	178.19	0.81	0.11	49.56	232.47
11	Gujarat	1714.47	1474.30	537.19	1233.05	731.19	5690.20
12	Haryana	571.92	127.97	225.60	109.59	211.68	1246.76
13	Himachal Pradesh	455.86	650.29	214.63	109.05	1186.35	2616.18
14	Jammu and Kashmir	262.93	186.51	126.65	292.09	310.39	1178.58
15	Jharkhand	771.58	879.36	1334.84	1446.12	2628.60	7060.50
16	Karnataka	94.75	661.17	392.37	237.09	282.49	1667.87
17	Kerala	3.90	137.19	13.06	20.80	28.56	203.51
18	Ladakh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.94	0.00	0.94
19	Madhya Pradesh	3492.01	2045.71	9219.70	3236.63	6975.81	24969.87
20	Maharashtra	586.93	822.68	1007.11	1186.91	1337.58	4941.20
21	Manipur	242.13	337.12	937.20	203.67	476.39	2196.51
22	Meghalaya	0.00	27.39	0.02	6.05	56.37	89.83
23	Mizoram	178.86	150.05	85.53	19.55	560.63	994.62
24	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.93	3.93
25	Odisha	1002.13	2748.43	3939.93	3342.59	1683.19	12716.27
26	Punjab	742.20	374.81	150.52	332.77	193.98	1794.29
27	Rajasthan	410.89	1096.92	1699.20	973.05	881.42	5061.48
28	Sikkim	20.20	104.67	87.69	295.32	483.63	991.51
29	Tamil Nadu	17.59	46.65	23.36	10.78	26.18	124.56
30	Telangana	209.99	181.51	239.81	39.55	1573.94	2244.79
31	Tripura	248.33	254.42	36.19	203.04	18.58	760.55
32	Uttar Pradesh	1701.08	1124.36	2232.82	422.18	735.88	6216.31
33	Uttarakhand	519.66	1183.55	301.96	360.11	327.57	2692.85
34	West Bengal	87.53	267.78	130.81	14.41	9.59	510.12
Grand Total		17189.14	17381.88	25898.48	18266.74	26858.08	105594.32

Source : <https://parivesh.nic.in>

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in the answer to part (a) to (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1327 to be answered on 30.07.2026 regarding 'Diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes' by Shri Sanjay Singh.

Project category wise and year wise detail of forest land approved (in Ha.) for non-forestry purpose under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980							
All State		During the Period: 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2026					Grand Total
S. No.	Category	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	
1	Airport	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.09
2	Canal	6.88	3.02	2.70	61.93	50.39	124.92
3	Communication Post	0.00	0.00	6.54	7.48	6.05	20.08
4	Defence	421.94	261.26	2288.51	469.16	3518.33	6959.21
5	Dispensary/Hospital	11.02	6.81	10.76	1.06	6.09	35.75
6	Drinking Water	63.46	144.36	183.69	376.17	439.88	1207.57
7	Encroachments	0.00	8.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.38
8	Forest Village Conversion	298.27	394.80	166.00	293.64	55.00	1207.71
9	Hydel / Irrigation	2007.30	2486.40	8113.96	2691.19	3489.26	18788.12
10	Industry	31.96	5.93	25.26	44.27	40.88	148.29
11	Mining / Quarrying	3939.48	3573.97	5611.24	3392.74	7459.29	23976.72
12	Mining of Mineral Oil	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.25	11.25
13	Non-Conventional Source of Energy	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.92	0.24	7.17
14	Optical Fibre Cable/Telecommunication lines	94.41	48.96	65.98	60.69	105.33	375.38
15	Others / Water / Rainwater Harvesting Structure	807.07	708.50	507.91	969.34	530.31	3523.12
16	Petrol Pump	0.00	0.00	1884.98	41.88	72.69	1999.55
17	Pipeline	127.13	162.78	138.56	144.48	215.40	788.35
18	Police and security related establishments	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.73	2.40	4.13
19	Power Transmission Line / Village Electricity	3105.46	3189.44	1960.38	3822.35	1928.81	14006.45
20	Railway	1169.53	1700.60	284.78	1752.98	1849.95	6757.84
21	Rehabilitation	86.90	75.11	833.45	470.59	1501.88	2967.93
22	Road	4966.41	4603.30	3756.01	3609.98	5348.94	22284.65
23	School / Educational Institution	40.87	6.23	12.35	26.25	175.33	261.03
24	Thermal Power	0.00	0.00	0.95	0.00	40.71	41.66
25	Upgradation / Strengthening / Widening	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.20

	of existing bridge by BRO						
26	Wind Power/Solar Power/Power sub-station	11.04	2.02	44.46	21.81	9.44	88.78
Grand Total		17189.1 4	17381.8 8	25898.4 8	18266.7 4	26858.0 8	105594.3 2

Source : <https://parivesh.nic.in>
