

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 726**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2017

**Changing Forest Cover**

726. SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA:

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

- (a) the details of the decrease or increase in the forest cover across the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh in 2016; and
- (b) the details of measures taken to stop illegal cutting of trees?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

- (a) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, a subordinate organization under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, has been carrying out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially. The findings of the assessment are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The latest report in the series is India State of Forest Report 2015. As per this report, the total forest cover of the country is 7, 01,673 square kilometers which is 21.34% of the total geographical area of the country. There is a net increase of 3775 square kilometers in the forest cover of the country as compared with India State of Forest Report-2013. The detailed list showing forest cover and change in forest cover States/UTs wise is given in **Annexure**. As per the ISFR 2015, forest cover of Uttar Pradesh has increased 112 square kilometers as compared to ISFR-2013. The details of decrease or increase in the forest cover in Uttar Pradesh in 2016 is not available.
- (b) The protection and management of forest including prevention of illegal cutting of trees is primarily the responsibility of concerned State /Union Territory Governments. This Ministry provides financial assistance to the State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes including scheme on 'Intensification of Forest Management'. Under this scheme financial assistance is provided to strengthen forest protection machinery by way of infrastructure development, use of modern technology, improved mobility by way of deployment of new field vehicles, improved communication and providing arms and ammunition to the front-line forestry force. Uttar Pradesh Forest Department has also informed that to check the menace of illegal felling of trees, a number of measures that include establishment of control room, improved mobility, provision of arms and co-ordination with other law enforcement agencies and administration have been undertaken.

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## Annexure

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question  
No. 726 due for answer on 07.02.2017 regarding 'Changing Forest Cover'.**

States/UTs	Geographical Area	Total Forest Cover 2015	Total Forest Cover 2013	Change in Forest Cover	Change Percent
Andhra Pradesh	1,60,204	24,424	24,357	67	0.27
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	67,248	67321	-73	-0.11
Assam	78,438	27,623	27671	-48	-0.17
Bihar	94,163	7,288	7291	-3	-0.04
Chhattisgarh	1,35,191	55,586	55621	-35	-0.06
Delhi	1,483	189	180	9	4.75
Goa	3,702	2,224	2219	5	0.22
Gujarat	1,96,022	14,660	14653	7	0.05
Haryana	44,212	1,584	1586	-2	-0.13
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	14,696	14683	13	0.09
Jammu & Kashmir	2,22,236	22,988	22538	450	1.96
Jharkhand	79,714	23,478	23473	5	0.02
Karnataka	1,91,791	36,421	36132	289	0.79
Kerala	38,863	19,239	17922	1317	6.85
Madhya Pradesh	3,08,245	77,462	77522	-60	-0.08
Maharashtra	3,07,713	50,628	50632	-4	-0.01
Manipur	22,327	16,994	16990	4	0.02
Meghalaya	22,429	17,217	17288	-71	-0.41
Mizoram	21,081	18,748	19054	-306	-1.63
Nagaland	16,579	12,966	13044	-78	-0.60
Odisha	1,55,707	50,354	50347	7	0.01
Punjab	50,362	1,771	1772	-1	-0.06
Rajasthan	3,42,239	16,171	16086	85	0.53
Sikkim	7,096	3,357	3358	-1	-0.03
Tamil Nadu	1,30,058	26,345	23844	2501	9.49
Telangana	114,865	21,591	21759	-168	-0.78
Tripura	10,486	7,811	7866	-55	-0.70
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	<b>2,40,928</b>	<b>14,461</b>	<b>14349</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>0.77</b>
Uttarakhand	53,483	24,240	24508	-268	-1.11
West Bengal	88,752	16,828	16805	23	0.14
A&N Islands	8,249	6,751	6711	40	0.59
Chandigarh	114	22,.03	17.26	4.77	21.65
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	206	213	-7	-3.40
Daman & Diu	112	19.61	9	10.61	52.73
Lakshadweep	32	27.06	27.06	0	0.00
Puducherry	480	55.38	50.06	5.32	9.61
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>32,87,263</b>	<b>701,673</b>	<b>697898</b>	<b>3775</b>	<b>0.54</b>





