

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 134*
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2017

Forest Land

*134. SHRI D.S. RATHOD:
SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

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

- (a) the total area of forest land in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the increase/decrease registered in the area of forest land during each of the last five years along with the reasons for the same State-wise;
- (c) whether forest land is being encroached in large scale in various parts of the country including Kerala; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN):

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 134 by Shri D.S. Rathod and Shri Anto Antony due for reply on 25.07.2017.

- (a) & (b) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun a subordinate organization under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change carries out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report. As per the latest report i.e. India State of Forest Report 2015, 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 forest cover as per India State of Forest Report-2013. Further, the tree cover outside forest in the country is estimated to be 92,572 square kilometers which is 2.82% of the total geographical area of the country. The total forest and tree cover outside forest in the country as per India State of Forest Report-2015 is 7,94,245 square kilometers which is 24.16% of the geographical area of the country. The detailed list showing forest cover and change in forest cover States/UTs wise is given in **Annexure I**. The name of the States/UTs showing increase/decrease in the forest cover alongwith reasons are given in **Annexure- II and Annexure-III**.
- (c) & (d) As per the information received from the State/UTs Forest Department, the total forest area under encroachment including Kerala is 1372351.53 hectare. The State/UT-wise details are given in **Annexure IV**. Protection and Management of Forests is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Forest Department. Various actions to remove encroachment are taken as per the provisions under various acts such as Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and various rules made under these and State specific acts and rules.

To prevent fresh encroachments, various measures are taken by State Forest Departments, such as survey and demarcation of forest areas, construction of boundary pillars and check posts, use of modern technology (that includes wireless network, remote sensing, Geographical Information System, Global Positioning System), improved mobility to the field staff by providing vehicles for patrolling, etc. Local communities are also encouraged and involved in conservation, protection and management of forests through Joint Forest Management Committees/Village level committees.

Annexure I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 134 due for answer on 25.07.2017 regarding 'Forest Land'

Change in Forest Cover in States/UTs as per India State of Forest Report (ISFR) - 2015

(Area in square Kilometers)

| States/UTs | Geographical Area | Total Forest Cover 2011 | Total Forest Cover 2013 | Total Forest Cover 2015 | Change in Forest Cover w.r.t. 2013 |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Andhra Pradesh | 1,60,204 | 46389 (include Telangana) | 24,357 | 24,424 | 67 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 83,743 | 67410 | 67321 | 67,248 | -73 |
| Assam | 78,438 | 27673 | 27671 | 27,623 | -48 |
| Bihar | 94,163 | 6845 | 7291 | 7,288 | -3 |
| Chhattisgarh | 1,35,191 | 55674 | 55621 | 55,586 | -35 |
| Delhi | 1,483 | 176.2 | 180 | 189 | 9 |
| Goa | 3,702 | 2219 | 2219 | 2,224 | 5 |
| Gujarat | 1,96,022 | 14619 | 14653 | 14,660 | 7 |
| Haryana | 44,212 | 1608 | 1586 | 1,584 | -2 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 55,673 | 14679 | 14683 | 14,696 | 13 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 2,22,236 | 22539 | 22538 | 22,988 | 450 |
| Jharkhand | 79,714 | 22977 | 23473 | 23,478 | 5 |
| Karnataka | 1,91,791 | 36194 | 36132 | 36,421 | 289 |
| Kerala | 38,863 | 17300 | 17922 | 19,239 | 1317 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 3,08,245 | 77700 | 77522 | 77,462 | -60 |
| Maharashtra | 3,07,713 | 50646 | 50632 | 50,628 | -4 |
| Manipur | 22,327 | 17090 | 16990 | 16,994 | 4 |
| Meghalaya | 22,429 | 17275 | 17288 | 17,217 | -71 |
| Mizoram | 21,081 | 19117 | 19054 | 18,748 | -306 |
| Nagaland | 16,579 | 13318 | 13044 | 12,966 | -78 |
| Odisha | 1,55,707 | 48903 | 50347 | 50,354 | 7 |
| Punjab | 50,362 | 1764 | 1772 | 1,771 | -1 |
| Rajasthan | 3,42,239 | 16087 | 16086 | 16,171 | 85 |
| Sikkim | 7,096 | 3359 | 3358 | 3,357 | -1 |
| Tamil Nadu | 1,30,058 | 23625 | 23844 | 26,345 | 2501 |
| Telangana | 114,865 | - | 21759 | 21,591 | -168 |
| Tripura | 10,486 | 7977 | 7866 | 7,811 | -55 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 2,40,928 | 14338 | 14349 | 14,461 | 112 |
| Uttarakhand | 53,483 | 24496 | 24508 | 24,240 | -268 |
| West Bengal | 88,752 | 12995 | 16805 | 16,828 | 23 |
| A&N Islands | 8,249 | 6724 | 6711 | 6,751 | 40 |
| Chandigarh | 114 | 17 | 17.26 | 22,.03 | 4.77 |
| Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 491 | 211 | 213 | 206 | -7 |
| Daman & Diu | 112 | 6 | 9 | 19.61 | 10.61 |
| Lakshadweep | 32 | 27 | 27.06 | 27.06 | 0 |
| Puducherry | 480 | 50 | 50.06 | 55.38 | 5.32 |
| Grand Total | 32,87,263 | 692027 | 697898 | 701,673 | 3775 |

Annexure II

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 134
due for answer on 25.07.2017 regarding 'Forest Land'**

States showing increase in forest cover and reasons for increase.

| S. No. | State/UTs | Change (Km2) | Reasons for increase. |
|---------------|------------------|---------------------|--|
| 1 | Tamil Nadu | 2,501 | Successful agro forestry practices, better conservation of forests etc |
| 2 | Kerala | 1,317 | Commercial plantations |
| 3 | Jammu & Kashmir | 450 | Improvement of scrub areas to forest areas |
| 4 | Karnataka | 289 | Plantation activities |
| 5 | Uttar Pradesh | 112 | Plantation activities and better protection |
| 6 | Rajasthan | 85 | Plantation activities and better protection |
| 7 | Andhra Pradesh | 67 | Plantation activities |
| 8 | A&N Ireland | 40 | Increase in mangrove cover and conservation and protection activities |
| 9 | West Bengal | 23 | Plantation activities and coppice growth |
| 10 | Himachal Pradesh | 13 | Plantation and conservation activities |
| 11 | Others Delhi | 9 | Plantation and protection mostly in ToF area. |
| 12 | Goa | 5 | Increase in mangroves areas. |
| 13 | Gujarat | 7 | Increase in mangroves cover and plantation activities. |
| 14 | Jharkhand | 5 | Plantation and Protection activity |
| 15 | Manipur | 4 | Plantation and Conservation activity |
| 16 | Odisha | 7 | Better Conservation in mangroves and plantation activities |
| 17 | Chandigarh | 4.8 | Plantation and protection activities |
| 18 | Daman & Diu | 10 | Commercial plantations |
| 19 | Puducherry | 5 | Plantations |
| | Total | 4955 | |

Annexure III

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 134
due for answer on 25.07.2017 regarding 'Forest Land'**

States showing decrease in forest cover and reasons for decrease.

| Sl. No. | States/UTs | Change (km²) | Reasons for decrease |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Mizoram | -306 | Shifting cultivation and other Biotic pressure |
| 2 | Uttarakhand | -268 | Rotational felling and diversion of forest lands for developmental activities |
| 3 | Telangana | -168 | Shifting cultivation and other Biotic pressure |
| 4 | Nagaland | -78 | Shifting cultivation and other Biotic pressure |
| 5 | Arunachal Pradesh | -73 | Shifting cultivation and diversion of forest lands for development activities |
| 6 | Meghalaya | -71 | Shifting cultivation and other Biotic pressure |
| 7 | Madhya Pradesh | -60 | Rotational felling, submergence of forest cover encroachment etc |
| 8 | Tripura | -55 | Shifting cultivation and encroachment on forest lands |
| 9 | Assam | -48 | Rotational felling, Shifting cultivation, Biotic pressure etc. |
| 10 | Chhattisgarh | -35 | Rotational felling, diversion of forest land for other activities etc |
| 11 | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | -7 | Heavy biotic pressure |
| 12 | Maharashtra | -4 | Rotational felling, diversion of forest land, encroachment etc. |
| 13 | Bihar | -3 | Interpretational changes. |
| 14 | Haryana | -2 | Rotational felling and diversion of land for non forestry purposes. |
| 15 | Punjab | -1 | Rotational felling |
| 16 | Sikkim | -1 | Road construction, shifting cultivation and land slide |
| | Total | -1180 | |

Annexure-IV

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 134
due for answer on 25.07.2017 regarding 'Forest Land'**

State/UTs wise details of Encroachment on Forest Land

| S. No. | Name of States/UTs | Area of Encroachment (in ha.) | As on Date |
|---------------|---------------------------|--|-------------------|
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 1690.72 | 31.03.2016 |
| 2 | Bihar | 132.21 | 31.03.2015 |
| 3 | Chhattisgarh | 19330.64 | 31.01.2016 |
| 4 | Gujarat | 34791.00 | 19.03.2011 |
| 5 | Goa | Nil | 25.02.2013 |
| 6 | Haryana | 520.00 | 31.03.2016 |
| 7 | Himachal Pradesh | 2339.02 | 31.03.2016 |
| 8 | Jharkhand | 27360.21 | 31.07.2012 |
| 9 | Jammu & Kashmir | 14345.02 | 13.02.2014 |
| 10 | Karnataka | 75826.76 | 31.03.2016 |
| 11 | Kerala | 56.43 | 31.03.2016 |
| 12 | Madhya Pradesh | 534717.28 | 31.03.2016 |
| 13 | Maharashtra | 67012.56 | 31.03.2016 |
| 14 | Odisha | 78505.08 | 22.07.2011 |
| 15 | Punjab | 6987.31 | 31.03.2015 |
| 16 | Rajasthan | 9003.91 | 31.12.2015 |
| 17 | Tamil Nadu | 15142.00 | 16.07.2014 |
| 18 | Telangana | 27775.64 | 31.03.2016 |
| 19 | Uttar Pradesh | 23869.50 | 29.02.2016 |
| 20 | Uttarakhand | 9619.80 | 30.06.2016 |
| 21 | West Bengal | 13779.49 | 31.03.2015 |
| 22 | Arunachal Pradesh | 58636.13 | 31.03.2016 |
| 23 | Assam | 317215.39 | 17.03.2015 |
| 24 | Manipur | 1356.80 | 31.03.2016 |
| 25 | Meghalaya | 9378.00 | 12.03.2011 |
| 26 | Mizoram | 9589.48 | 31.03.2016 |
| 27 | Nagaland | 8721.86 | 26.07.2011 |
| 28 | Sikkim | 2817.21 | 31.03.2016 |
| 29 | Tripura | 6.77 | 08.08.2014 |
| 30 | A & N Islands | 479.57 | 31.03.2016 |
| 31 | Chandigarh | 14.00 | 31.03.2016 |
| 32 | D&N Haveli | 614.40 | 31.03.2013 |
| 33 | Daman & Diu | 87.83 | 28.09.2010 |
| 34 | Lakshadweep | Nil | 28.08.2010 |
| 35 | Delhi | 629.51 | 11.04.2012 |
| 36 | Puducherry | Nil | 21.10.2010 |
| | TOTAL | 1372351.53 (1.372 mha) | |

