

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1598
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2017

Percentage of Forest Cover

1598. SHRI RAM SWAROOP SHARMA:

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

- (a) the total percentage of forest cover in the country; and
- (b) the percentage of expansion in forest cover in the Himalayan region States during the last ten years, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

- (a) As per 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. Further, the tree cover outside forest of 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 of 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.
- (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 since 1987 and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report. The percentage of increase/decrease in forest covers in the Himalayan Region States, State-wise by comparing State of Forest Report - 2005 and India State of Forest Report-2015 is given in **Annexure**.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question
No. 1598 due for answer on 25.07.2017 regarding 'Percentage of Forest Cover'

Percentage of increase/decrease in forest cover in the Himalayan Region States during last
ten years.

(Area in square Kilometers)

States/UTs	Geographical Area	Total Forest Cover 2015	Total Forest Cover 2005	Change in Forest Cover	Change Percent
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	67,248	67,777	-529	-0.79
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	14,696	14369	327	2.22
Jammu & Kashmir	2,22,236	22,988	21,273	1715	7.46
Sikkim	7,096	3,357	3262	95	2.83
Uttarakhand	53,483	24,240	24442	-202	-0.83