

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 394
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.07.2017

National Forest Policy

394. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

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

- (a) whether the National Forest Policy (NFP) envisages one-third of the total land of the country under forest or tree cover as a national goal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the total land under forest/tree in the country, as on date, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has received representations/suggestions from various quarters including environmental activists over the fast depleting forest cover in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent depleting forest area and effective implementation of the NFP across the country?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The National Forest Policy, 1988 envisages to have a minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover.
- (b) The State/UT wise details of forest cover of the country is given in Annexure.
- (c) & (d) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, a subordinate office of the Ministry has been carrying out the assessment of forest cover of the country using remote sensing technology. The findings are published in report titled India State Forest Report (ISFR). As per latest ISFR 2015, forest cover of the country has shown an increase of 3,775 sq km over the previous assessment in ISFR 2013.
- (e) To increase the forest cover in the country, afforestation programme is taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP), Green India Mission (GIM), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) and under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).

National Afforestation Programme (NAP) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for afforestation and tree plantation and eco-restoration of degraded forests and adjoining areas through people's participation in the country. The scheme is being implemented through a decentralized mechanism of State Forest Development agency (SFDA) at State Level, Forest Development agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at Village level. In addition, the State Governments also take up several afforestation programmes to enhance and enrich forest cover of the country.

The Ministry also provides Grants-in-aid to the States/ Union Territories Governments for protection and management of forests under Intensification of Forest Management Scheme (IFMS). The aim of the scheme is to supplement the efforts of the States and Union Territories towards protection and management of forests. The Funds under the scheme are utilized for purchase of vehicles for patrolling of the forests, establishment of camps, watch towers for detection and monitoring of forest fires, creation and maintenance of fire lines, survey and demarcation of forest areas and strengthening forest infrastructure etc.

Annexure

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 394 ASKED BY SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI DUE FOR ANSWER ON 18.07.2017 REGARDING NATIONAL FOREST POLICY

State/UTs wise Forest cover as per India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2015.**Area in square Kilometers**

States/UTs	Total Forest Cover 2015
Andhra Pradesh	24,424
Arunachal Pradesh	67,248
Assam	27,623
Bihar	7,288
Chhattisgarh	55,586
Delhi	189
Goa	2,224
Gujarat	14,660
Haryana	1,584
Himachal Pradesh	14,696
Jammu & Kashmir	22,988
Jharkhand	23,478
Karnataka	36,421
Kerala	19,239
Madhya Pradesh	77,462
Maharashtra	50,628
Manipur	16,994
Meghalaya	17,217
Mizoram	18,748
Nagaland	12,966
Odisha	50,354
Punjab	1,771
Rajasthan	16,171
Sikkim	3,357
Tamil Nadu	26,345
Telangana	21,591
Tripura	7,811
Uttar Pradesh	14,461
Uttarakhand	24,240
West Bengal	16,828
A&N Islands	6,751
Chandigarh	22,.03
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	206
Daman & Diu	19.61
Lakshadweep	27.06
Puducherry	55.38
Grand Total	701,673

