

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 449
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.07.2017

Forest Areas

449. DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL “NISHANK”:

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

- (a) the details of forest areas in various States in the country;
- (b) the reasons for increase/decrease in the forest area in the States during the last five years; and
- (c) the names of the States where the forest areas has increased during the last three years and the target set by the Government for this purpose in the coming year?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

- (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 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 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. 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) As per India State of Forest Report-2015, the forest cover has increased in 19 States/UTs namely, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Manipur, Odisha, Chandigarh, Daman& Diu and Puducherry. There is no state-specific target for increase in forest cover in the coming years. However, as per the National Forest Policy-1988, national goal should be to have minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. In the hills and in mountainous regions, the aim should be to maintain two-third of the area under such cover in order to prevent erosion and land degradation and to ensure the stability of the fragile eco-system.

Annexure I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 449 due for answer on 18.07.2017 regarding 'Forest Areas'

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 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
Uttar Pradesh	2,40,928	14,461	14349	112	0.77
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
Grand Total	32,87,263	701,673	697898	3775	0.54

Annexure II

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 449 due for answer on 18.07.2017 regarding 'Forest Areas'

States showing gain in forest cover and reasons for gain.

S. No.	State/UTs	Change (Km2)	Reasons for gain
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 Unstarred Question No. 449 due for answer on 18.07.2017 regarding 'Forest Areas'

States showing decline in forest cover and reasons for decline

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Change (km²)	Reasons for decline
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	

