

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1896
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.12.2017

Ratio of various Land

1896. DR. ANUPAM HAZRA:

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

- (a) the details of the ratio of residential area, commercial and industrial area, agricultural area and forest area of the land in the country as per the last census year i.e. 2011;
- (b) whether this ratio is congenial one from the environmental point of view and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to prepare any blue print to maintain congenial ratio in land; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) 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 kilometer which is 21.34% of the total geographical area of the country. Further, the tree cover outside forest in the country is estimated to be 92,572 square kilometer 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 kilometer which is 24.16% of the geographical area of the country. The information on residential, commercial and industrial area, agriculture area is not maintained by the Ministry.
- (b) to (d) The principal aim of Forest Policy is to ensure environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance including atmospheric equilibrium which are vital for sustenance of all lifeforms, human, animal and plant. Accordingly to achieve this objective, the National Forest Policy, 1988 prescribes that a minimum of one-third of the total land area

of the country should be 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. In order to achieve the goal of one third land area under forest or tree cover, the Government is promoting green cover outside the forest area through agroforestry, farm forestry, social forestry and plantation on railway land, plantation on the sides of national highways/state Highways, etc.
