

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1159**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2018

**Forest Cover**

1159. SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI:

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

- (a) whether India's forest cover has increased during the last three years and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government to further increase India's forest cover?

**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 (ISFR). As per the latest report i.e. ISFR- 2015, the Total Forest Cover (TFC) of the country is 7,01,673 square kilometers which is 21.34% of the total geographical area of the country. Further, as per ISFR-2015, the total tree cover outside forest (ToF) 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 ISFR-2015 is 7,94,245 square kilometers which is 24.16% of the geographical area of the country.

As per the last three India State of Forest Reports, the total forest and tree cover in India has increased. The total forest and tree cover alongwith percentage to the total geographical area and increase in forest and tree cover are as follows:-

ISFR	TFC (in square kilometers and percentage)	ToF (in square kilometers)	Total forest cover and Tree Outside Forest (in square kilometers and percentage)	Increase in forest and tree cover (in square kilometers)
2015	7, 01, 673 (21.34%)	92,572	794,245 (24.16%)	5081
2013	6, 97, 898 (21.23%)	91,266	789,164 (24.01%)	6293
2011	6, 92, 027 (21.03%)	90,844	782,871 (23.81%)	-

- (b) To further increase the forest cover in the country, afforestation programmes are being taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and Green India Mission (GIM) being implemented by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes/funding sources such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) which, from 2015-16, has been amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component of the “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 & Forests is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for afforestation 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. An amount of Rs. 473.99 crores has been released to the states to treat an area of 152477 hectares during the last three years and the current year (2014-15 to 2017-18).

National Mission for a Green India (GIM) is one of the eight Missions outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. It aims at protecting, restoring and enhancing India’s forest cover and responding to Climate. GIM activities were started in the Financial Year 2015-16. So far fund amounting to Rs. 150.11 crore has been released under GIM to nine States for carrying out various activities under the mission.

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