

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4610
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2018

Barren Forest Land

4610. SHRI HARISH CHANDRA *ALIAS* HARISH DWIVEDI:

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

- (a) the details of barren forest land in the country at present, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to utilise barren forest land;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (d) Forest Survey of India has been carrying out assessment of forest cover and tree cover on biennial basis since 1987 and India State of Forest Report-2017 is the latest in the series. The total forest and tree cover of the country, as per the latest “India State of Forest Report 2017” published by Forest Survey of India, is 8,02,088 square kilometers which is 24.39% of the total geographical area of the country.

Forest Survey of India has classified the forest cover in different density classes as per details given below:-

Class	Area in square kilometer	Percentage of geographical Area
Forest Cover		
Very Dense Forest (Canopy Density of 70% and above)	98,158	2.99
Moderately Dense Forest (Canopy Density 40% are more and less than 70%)	3,08,318	9.38
Open Forest (canopy Density of 10% or more and less than 40%)	3,01,797	9.18
Total Forest Cover	7,08,273	21.54
Total Tree Cover	93,815	2.85
Total Forest and Tree Cover	8,02,088	24.39

In addition to above, degraded forest land having canopy density less than 10% are classified as Scrub. The area under Scrub is reported to be 45,979 square kilometers which is 1.40% of total geographical area of the country. For increase of forest cover in areas with low canopy density particularly in open forests and scrubs, afforestation under various Central Sector Schemes and State Plans are being taken up.
