

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6478
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2018

Assessment of Forest Land Area

6478. SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment of Forest Land Area and tree resource of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of last assessment carried out in this regard;
- (c) the details of the land with recently increase or decrease of area assessed during recent assessment, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to preserve and increase the tree plantation and forest land area in the country?

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) since 1987. The 15th report in this series, i.e. ISFR-2017 was released recently.
Forest Survey of India regularly conducts inventory of trees in forests and outside forests in a cycle of two years since 2002 under its National Forest inventory Programme by selecting 60 districts randomly falling across different physiographic zones.
- (b) As per the latest report i.e. ISFR- 2017, the total forest and tree cover of the country is 8,02,088 square kilometers which is 24.39% of the total geographical area of the country. It shows an increase of 8021 square kilometers over that of the India State of Forest Report 2015 (updated) out of which, there is a net increase of 6,778 square kilometer in forest cover and 1,243 square kilometer in tree cover.
- (c) The State/UTs wise detail of forest and tree cover including increase/decrease in forest and tree cover as per ISFR-2017 are given in **Annexure I and II**.

- (d) To increase the tree plantation and 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), 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. An amount of Rs. 3778.65 crores has been released to the states to treat an area of 21.78 lakh hectares since inception of this programme.

National Mission for a Green India (GIM) is one of the eight Missions outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. So far funds amounting to Rs. 157.64 crore has been released under GIM to nine States for carrying out various activities under the mission, during 2015-16 to 2017-18.

Annexure I

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 6478
due for answer on 06.04.2018 regarding 'Assessment of Forest Land Area.'**

Change in Forest Cover of States/UTs between 2015 and 2017 assessments

(area in square kilometer)

State	Geographic Area	Total Forest cover as per ISFR-2017	Percent of Geographic area	Change in forest cover wrt ISFR 2015 (updated)
Andhra Pradesh	162968	28,147	17.27	2141
Arunachal Pradesh	83743	66,964	79.96	-190
Assam	78438	28,105	35.83	567
Bihar	94163	7,299	7.75	45
Chhattisgarh	135192	55,547	41.09	-12
Delhi	1483	192.41	12.97	3.64
Goa	3702	2,229	60.21	19
Gujarat	196244	14,757	7.52	47
Haryana	44212	1,588	3.59	8
Himachal Pradesh	55673	15,100	27.12	393
Jammu & Kashmir *	222236	23,241	10.46	253
Jharkhand	79716	23,553	29.55	29
Karnataka	191791	37,550	19.58	1101
Kerala	38852	20,321	52.30	1043
Madhya Pradesh	308252	77,414	25.11	-12
Maharashtra	307713	50,682	16.47	-17
Manipur	22327	17,346	77.69	263
Meghalaya	22429	17,146	76.45	-116
Mizoram	21081	18,186	86.27	-531
Nagaland	16579	12,489	75.33	-450
Odisha	155707	51,345	32.98	885
Punjab	50362	1837	3.65	66
Rajasthan	342239	16,572	4.84	466
Sikkim	7096	3,344	47.13	-9
Tamil Nadu	130060	26,281	20.21	73
Telangana	112077	20,419	18.22	565
Tripura	10486	7,726	73.68	-164
Uttar Pradesh	240928	14,679	6.09	278
Uttarakhand	53483	24,295	45.43	23
West Bengal	88752	16,847	18.98	21
A&N Islands	8249	6,742	81.73	-9
Chandigarh	114	21.56	18.91	-0.10
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	207	42.16	1
Daman & Diu	111	20.49	18.46	0.88
Lakshadweep	30	27.10	90.33	0.04
Puducherry	490	53.67	10.95	-3.28
Grand Total	32,87,469	708273	21.54	6778

Annexure II

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 6478 due for answer on 06.04.2018 regarding 'Assessment of Forest Land Area.'

Tree Cover in States/UTs in India

(area in square kilometer)

State	Geographic Area	Total Tree cover as per ISFR-2017	Percent of Geographic area	Change in Tree cover w.r.t ISFR 2015 (updated)
Andhra Pradesh	162968	3,753	2.30	-212
Arunachal Pradesh	83743	807	0.96	46
Assam	78438	1,496	1.91	-117
Bihar	94163	2,263	2.40	81
Chhattisgarh	135192	3,833	2.84	204
Delhi	1483	113	7.62	2
Goa	3702	323	8.73	-2
Gujarat	196244	8,024	4.09	110
Haryana	44212	1,415	3.20	60
Himachal Pradesh	55673	822	1.48	65
Jammu & Kashmir *	222236	7,815	3.52	-539
Jharkhand	79716	2,922	3.67	139
Karnataka	191791	5,713	2.98	161
Kerala	38852	2,959	7.62	8
Madhya Pradesh	308252	8,073	2.62	300
Maharashtra	307713	9,831	3.19	273
Manipur	22327	220	0.99	-23
Meghalaya	22429	657	2.93	-53
Mizoram	21081	467	2.22	-68
Nagaland	16579	379	2.29	-2
Odisha	155707	3,993	2.56	7
Punjab	50362	1,622	3.22	78
Rajasthan	342239	8,266	2.42	-3
Sikkim	7096	35	0.49	0
Tamil Nadu	130060	4,671	3.59	166
Telangana	112077	2,669	2.38	120
Tripura	10486	215	2.05	-18
Uttar Pradesh	240928	7,442	3.09	398
Uttarakhand	53483	767	1.43	15
West Bengal	88752	2,136	2.41	48
A&N Islands	8249	35	0.42	-2
Chandigarh	114	10	8.77	1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	30	6.11	2
Daman & Diu	111	10	9.01	0
Lakshadweep	30	2	6.67	-2
Puducherry	490	27	5.51	0
Grand Total	32,87,469	93,815	2.85	1243

