

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6650
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2018

Forest Coverage

6650. SHRI BALABHADRA MAJHI:

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

- (a) the details of forest coverage in the country in absolute terms and percentage of its own area and percentage of the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether there has been an increase/decrease in forest coverage in various States/UTs during the last ten years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) whether the Government conducts tree census at periodic intervals and 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 (ISFR). 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. The State/UT-wise details of forest and tree cover are given in **Annexure I and II**.
- (b) & (c) There has been a net increase of 18,102 square kilometer in forest coverage in the last ten years. The detail of State wise forest cover changes between State of Forest Report (2005) (revised) and India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2017 are given in **Annexure III**.
- (d) Forest survey of India does not conduct any census of tree in the country. Forest Survey of India (FSI) conducts regular inventory of trees in forests and outside forests in the country under its National Forest Inventory programme by selecting 60 districts randomly in different physiographic zones on a cycle of two years. On the basis of data collected from these 60 districts and data of preceding 2 cycles, growing stock (stems & volume of wood) estimates are generated at national and state levels which are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR).

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 6650 due for answer on 06.04.2018 regarding 'Forest Coverage'

Forest Cover in States/UTs as per India State of Forest Report (ISFR) -2017.

(Area in square kilometers)

State	Geographic Area	Total Forest cover as per ISFR-2017	Forest cover percentage w.r.t geographic area of State	Forest cover percentage w.r.t geographic area of India.
Andhra Pradesh	162968	28,147	17.27	0.85
Arunachal Pradesh	83743	66,964	79.96	2.03
Assam	78438	28,105	35.83	0.85
Bihar	94163	7,299	7.75	0.22
Chhattisgarh	135192	55,547	41.09	1.68
Delhi	1483	192.41	12.97	0.00
Goa	3702	2,229	60.21	0.06
Gujarat	196244	14,757	7.52	0.44
Haryana	44212	1,588	3.59	0.04
Himachal Pradesh	55673	15,100	27.12	0.45
Jammu & Kashmir *	222236	23,241	10.46	0.70
Jharkhand	79716	23,553	29.55	0.71
Karnataka	191791	37,550	19.58	1.14
Kerala	38852	20,321	52.30	0.61
Madhya Pradesh	308252	77,414	25.11	2.35
Maharashtra	307713	50,682	16.47	1.54
Manipur	22327	17,346	77.69	0.52
Meghalaya	22429	17,146	76.45	0.52
Mizoram	21081	18,186	86.27	0.55
Nagaland	16579	12,489	75.33	0.37
Odisha	155707	51,345	32.98	1.56
Punjab	50362	1837	3.65	0.05
Rajasthan	342239	16,572	4.84	0.50
Sikkim	7096	3,344	47.13	0.10
Tamil Nadu	130060	26,281	20.21	0.79
Telangana	112077	20,419	18.22	0.62
Tripura	10486	7,726	73.68	0.23
Uttar Pradesh	240928	14,679	6.09	0.44
Uttarakhand	53483	24,295	45.43	0.73
West Bengal	88752	16,847	18.98	0.51
A&N Islands	8249	6,742	81.73	0.20
Chandigarh	114	21.56	18.91	0.00
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	207	42.16	0.00
Daman & Diu	111	20.49	18.46	0.00
Lakshadweep	30	27.10	90.33	0.00
Puducherry	490	53.67	10.95	0.00
Grand Total	32,87,469	708273	----	21.54

* Includes Jammu & Kashmir area outside LoC that is under illegal occupation of Pakistan and China.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 6650 due for answer on 06.04.2018 regarding 'Forest Coverage.'

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
Andhra Pradesh	162968	3,753	2.30
Arunachal Pradesh	83743	807	0.96
Assam	78438	1,496	1.91
Bihar	94163	2,263	2.40
Chhattisgarh	135192	3,833	2.84
Delhi	1483	113	7.62
Goa	3702	323	8.73
Gujarat	196244	8,024	4.09
Haryana	44212	1,415	3.20
Himachal Pradesh	55673	822	1.48
Jammu & Kashmir *	222236	7,815	3.52
Jharkhand	79716	2,922	3.67
Karnataka	191791	5,713	2.98
Kerala	38852	2,959	7.62
Madhya Pradesh	308252	8,073	2.62
Maharashtra	307713	9,831	3.19
Manipur	22327	220	0.99
Meghalaya	22429	657	2.93
Mizoram	21081	467	2.22
Nagaland	16579	379	2.29
Odisha	155707	3,993	2.56
Punjab	50362	1,622	3.22
Rajasthan	342239	8,266	2.42
Sikkim	7096	35	0.49
Tamil Nadu	130060	4,671	3.59
Telangana	112077	2,669	2.38
Tripura	10486	215	2.05
Uttar Pradesh	240928	7,442	3.09
Uttarakhand	53483	767	1.43
West Bengal	88752	2,136	2.41
A&N Islands	8249	35	0.42
Chandigarh	114	10	8.77
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	30	6.11
Daman & Diu	111	10	9.01
Lakshadweep	30	2	6.67
Puducherry	490	27	5.51
Grand Total	32,87,469	93,815	-----

* The total tree cover of the country is 2.85 percent of the total geographical area.

Annexure III

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 6650 due for answer on
06.04.2018 regarding 'Forest Coverage'

State/UT-wise forest cover changes between State of Forest Report (SFR) 2005 and India State of Forest Report
(ISFR) 2017.

(Area in square kilometers)

State/UT	Forest Cover as per State Forest Report (SFR) 2005 (Revised)	Forest Cover as per India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2017	Change in forest cover 2005-2017
Andhra Pradesh & Telangana	45,231	48,566	3,335
Arunachal Pradesh	67,472	66964	-508
Assam	27,758	28105	347
Bihar	6,807	7299	492
Chhattisgarh	55,929	55547	-382
Delhi	177	192.41	15
Goa	2,156	2229	73
Gujarat	14,604	14757	153
Haryana	1,604	1588	-16
Himachal Pradesh	14,666	15100	434
Jammu & Kashmir	22,689	23241	552
Jharkhand	22,722	23553	831
Karnataka	36,200	37550	1,350
Kerala	17,284	20321	3,037
Madhya Pradesh	77,739	77414	-325
Maharashtra	50,661	50682	21
Manipur	16,952	17346	394
Meghalaya	17,205	17146	-59
Mizoram	18,600	18186	-414
Nagaland	13,665	12489	-1,176
Orissa	48,755	51345	2,590
Punjab	1,660	1837	177
Rajasthan	16,012	16572	560
Sikkim	3,357	3344	-13
Tamil Nadu	23,314	26281	2,967
Tripura	8,173	7726	-447
Uttar Pradesh	14,346	14679	333
Uttarakhand	24,493	24295	-198
West Bengal	12,970	16847	3,877
A & N Islands	6,663	6742	79
Chandigarh	17	21.56	5
Dadra & N. Haveli	216	207	-9
Daman & Diu	6	20.49	14
Lakshdweep	26	27.1	1
Puducherry	42	53.67	12
Grand Total	690,171	708,273	18,102