

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION No. \*166**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2018

**Cutting of Trees**

\*166. SHRI BALABHADRA MAJHI:  
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK:

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

- (a) whether there are no fruitful results in stopping the menace of cutting of trees in spite of strict provision laid down in this regard, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether any study has been conducted to ascertain the reasons for failure in this regard in spite of increase in plantation of trees, if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether data about cutting down of trees and violation of norms in this regard is not available with the Union Government, if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) the basis on which the Government formulates forest policies in the absence of such data; and
- (e) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

- (a) to (e) The statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. \*166 DUE FOR 21.12.2018 REGARDING CUTTING OF TREES ASKED BY SHRI BALABHADRA MAJHI AND SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK**

- (a) Protection and management of trees is primarily the responsibility of State /Union Territory Governments. There are strong legal frameworks for protection and management of tree resources of the country which include the National Forest Policy, 1988, Indian Forest Act, 1927, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and State Forest Acts/State Specific Tree Preservation Acts and Rules, etc. The State /UT Government take appropriate actions in accordance with the provisions made under these acts/ rules for regulating felling of trees.
- (b) No such study has been conducted in this regard. However, the Forest survey of India, Dehradun an institution under the MoEF&CC 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 in the country is 8,02,088 square kilometers which is 24.39 per cent of the geographical area of the country. There is an increase of 8021 square kilometers of total forest and tree cover compared to that of ISFR-2015.
- (c) The implementation of various Acts, Rules and regulation, to check illegal tree felling is the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Governments. The data regarding cutting of trees is not maintained by the Ministry.
- (d) & (e) National Forest policy is meant for giving a broader policy framework regarding management of forests and wildlife in the country. Forest Policy is not specifically meant only for protection of trees. Protection of trees and forests is only a part of forest management. The existing National Forest Policy, 1988 envisages that one-third of geographical area of the country should be under forest or tree cover. At present, 24.39 per cent of the geographical area of the country is under forest and tree cover. The balance nine percent can be achieved through taking up plantation/afforestation outside the forests on both government and private land including restocking of natural forests and also by increasing forest and tree cover by raising new mixed plantation.

A new national forest policy 2018 has been proposed which proposes sustainable management of forests and management of trees outside forests. A National Forest Ecosystem Management Information system will also be developed to ensure a regular flow of reliable data from the States and other sources and making it available in the public domain. This will be helpful for scientific planning and management of forests.

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