

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1000
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2019

Forest Cover in Urban Areas

1000. SHRI ANOOP MISHRA:

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

- (a) whether forest cover in urban areas has been disappearing very fast and is well below six per cent in some metro cities; and
- (b) the present status of smart cities which have the target of having maximum green covered area?

ANSWER

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

- (a) No, Madam. The Ministry does not maintain forest cover data for metro cities separately. However, due to urbanization and development of cities as per the development plan, trees are cut which are regulated under the Tree Preservation Act and other relevant act applicable in the concerned State/UT. While approving such plan due emphasis is given for planting large number of trees on unused space to maintain green cover for better control of pollution and reduce urban heat effects and maintain eco balance.
- (b) Total numbers of 100 smart cities have been distributed among the States and UTs on the basis of equitable criteria. One of the features of smart cities is preserving and developing open spaces- parks, playgrounds and recreational spaces in order to enhance the quality of life of citizen, reduce the urban heat effects in areas and generally promote eco balance. Forest and Trees in urban areas provide green lungs to the city and maintain eco-balance and has been prominently incorporated in these smart cities by State Government.
