

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1191**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.06.2019

**Reduction in Forest Area**

1191. SHRI AJAY NISHAD:

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

- (a) whether forest area in the country is reducing rapidly and is continuously in a state of decline;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to address the said issue;
- (d) whether the Government has any scheme to include the private sector to increase the forest area by including private land under forestation programmes and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to provide tax relief and compensation to those people who are willing to promote forest cover on their land under the said scheme and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)**

- (a) & (b) No, Sir. Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, a subordinate organization under the Ministry 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 kilometer (forest cover 708273 square kilometer, tree cover 93815 square kilometer) which is 24.39% of the geographical area of the country. There is an increase of 8021 square kilometer (forest cover 6778 square kilometer, tree cover 1243 square kilometer) of total forest and tree cover compared to that of ISFR-2015. The State/UTs wise details of forest cover along with percentage as per ISFR-2017 is given in **Annexure**.
- (c) For conservation, development and enrichment of 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 Compensatory Afforestation Fund.

To compensate the loss of forest for development works, compensatory afforestation is undertaken on non-forest land and degraded forest land from the funds collected from the user agencies and deposited in the Compensatory Afforestation Fund. In addition net present value of the forest land diverted is also deposited in Compensatory Afforestation Fund and utilized for additional afforestation and allied forestry activities for eco-restoration of the loss due to forest diversion.

- (d) Private Sector is taking up afforestation programme on areas outside forests, largely in partnership with farmers and other land owners. The National Forest Policy, 1988 provides that as far as possible, a forest-based industry should raise the raw material needed for meeting its own requirements, preferably by establishment of a direct relationship between the factory and the individuals who can grow the raw material by supporting the individuals with inputs including credit, constant technical advice and finally harvesting and transport services.
- (e) There is no such proposal to provide tax relief and compensation to those people who are willing to promote forest cover on their land under consideration of this Ministry.

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## Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1191  
due for answer on 28.06.2019 regarding 'Reduction in Forest Area'

State/UTs wise details of Forest and Tree Cover as per ISFR 2017

(Area in square kilometer)

State	Geographic Area	Forest Cover	Tree Cover	Total Forest and Tree Cover	Percentage of geographical area
Andhra Pradesh	162968	28,147	3753	31900	19.57
Arunachal Pradesh	83743	66,964	807	67771	80.93
Assam	78438	28,105	1496	29601	37.74
Bihar	94163	7,299	2263	9562	10.15
Chhattisgarh	135192	55,547	3833	59380	43.92
Delhi	1483	192.41	113	305.41	20.59
Goa	3702	2229	323	2552	68.94
Gujarat	196244	14,757	8024	22781	11.61
Haryana	44212	1588	1415	3003	6.79
Himachal Pradesh	55673	15,100	822	15922	28.60
Jammu & Kashmir *	222236	23,241	7815	31056	13.97
Jharkhand	79716	23,553	2922	26475	33.21
Karnataka	191791	37,550	5713	43263	22.56
Kerala	38852	20,321	2959	23280	59.92
Madhya Pradesh	308252	77,414	8073	85487	27.73
Maharashtra	307713	50,682	9831	60513	19.67
Manipur	22327	17,346	220	17566	78.68
Meghalaya	22429	17,146	657	17803	79.37
Mizoram	21081	18,186	467	18653	88.48
Nagaland	16579	12,489	379	12868	77.62
Odisha	155707	51,345	3993	55338	35.54
Punjab	50362	1837	1622	3459	6.87
Rajasthan	342239	16,572	8266	24838	7.26
Sikkim	7096	3344	35	3379	47.62
Tamil Nadu	130060	26,281	4671	30952	23.80
Telangana	112077	20,419	2669	23088	20.60
Tripura	10486	7726	215	7941	75.73
Uttar Pradesh	240928	14,679	7442	22121	9.18
Uttarakhand	53483	24,295	767	25062	46.86
West Bengal	88752	16,847	2136	18983	21.39
A&N Islands	8249	6742	35	6777	82.16
Chandigarh	114	2156	10	31.56	27.68
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	207	30	237	48.27
Daman & Diu	111	20.49	10	30.49	27.47
Lakshadweep	30	27.10	2	29.1	97.00
Puducherry	490	53.67	27	80.67	16.46
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>32,87,469</b>	<b>7,08,273</b>	<b>93815</b>	<b>802088</b>	<b>24.39</b>

