

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3216**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.07.2019

**Forest Cover**

3216. SHRI D.K.SURESH:

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

- (a) whether according to a new study released by the World Resources Institute (WRI), India's forest cover stands at 21 per cent against global standard of 33.3 per cent;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any measures to analyze the alarming situation of India's declining forest cover;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the initiatives being taken by the Government to save our forests and increase the forest cover of the country?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a)to (e) The World Resource Institute (WRI) study is based on automated time series analysis of Landsat imageries carried out at a global scale by the University of Maryland. This study is only based on satellite data and lacks any ground verification. Also the definition adopted by the Institute varies from the definition adopted by our country for reporting to various international fora.

Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, organization under the Ministry has been assessing forest cover of the country once in every two years since 1987. The assessment carried out by FSI is scientific, robust and involves ground verification/truthing at more than 3000 locations across the country. The overall accuracy of the classification of forest cover into difference density classes work out to be more than 90%. On perusal of the forest cover data from 2001 to 2019, it is observed that the forest cover of the country is increasing.

To save forest and to increase 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), Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) and under various States/UTs schemes/plans.

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