

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1720
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2023

Illegal Forest Cutting

1720. SHRI RAJENDRA DHEDYA GAVIT:
SHRI M. SELVARAJ

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

- (a) whether the Government is planning to bring out an action plan on large-scale afforestation within not only the designated forests but also public land and freeze on felling of trees in the country in view of eminent dangers of severe climatic change, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the nature of directions given to the agencies which are permitted to cut trees to make way for infrastructure development, including National and State Highways;
- (c) whether the forest density in the country has declined a lot due to illegal forest cutting, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is taking any steps to stop illegal forest cutting so that some concrete action could be taken against the forest/wood mafia and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of scheme formulated by the Government to increase forest cover in the country; and
- (f) the amount of funds allocated for the aforesaid scheme, State/UT- wise including Tamil Nadu?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) Large scale afforestation has been raised in forest areas and public lands under National Mission for a Green India(GIM), CAMPA, MGNREGA, Nagar Van Yojana and State/ UT Plan etc. This has resulted in increase of 1540 sq km in forest cover as per the India State of Forest Report 2021.
- (b) Felling of trees on forest land along National and State Highways is dealt under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and its rules and regulation on case to case basis.The required number of tree is felled as per terms and conditions in the approvals for the diversion of forest land for non forestry purpose,.
- (c) Forest Cover of the country is assessed by Forest Survey of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change every two years and publishes the findings in the India State of Forest Reports. As per the latest India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, the total forest cover of India is 7 ,13,789 sq. km which is 21 .71% of

the geographical area (32,87,469 sq. km) of the country. Forest Cover has increased by 1,540 sq. km between ISFR 2019 & ISFR 2021 assessment. As per ISFR 2021, the increase in forest cover at the country level in Very Dense Forest is 501 sq. km and in Open Forest is 2,621 sq. km. There is a decrease of 1,582 sq. km under Moderately Dense Forest. Percentage change in forest cover between ISFR 2019 & ISFR 2021 is due to different natural and anthropogenic factors.

- (d) The protection of forest including protection against illegal felling is primarily looked after by State government/UT Forest Department through frontline staff at beat, block, range and division level by conducting regular patrolling, surveillance and field visits. Local institutions including Joint Forest Management Committees assist the frontline staffs of the State/UT forest department in protection, regeneration and afforestation.
- (e) & (f) Under different schemes like Green India Mission (GIM), CAMPA, MGNREGA, State Plans, afforestation on forest and non forest area is undertaken to increase forest cover. In case of GIM so far, Rs. 690.39 Crores has been released to the States/UTs since 2015 (*Annexure-I*). In case of CAMPA, Rs. 51,768.76 Crores has been released to the States/UTs since 2019 (*Annexure-II*). In case of Tamil Nadu, under CAMPA Rs. 113.42 Crores has been released since 2019.

Annexure-I

Total Funds allocated to States/UTs under Green India Mission

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.No.	State	Funds Allocated/released
1	Andhra Pradesh	6.19
2	Arunachal Pradesh	13.43
3	Chhattisgarh	72.75
4	Haryana	9.55
5	Himachal Pradesh	17.09
6	Jammu & Kashmir	25.73
7	Karnataka	13.41
8	Kerala	25.47
9	Madhya Pradesh	91.03
10	Maharashtra	10.30
11	Manipur	53.75
12	Mizoram	139.08
13	Odisha	75.78
14	Punjab	21.57
15	Sikkim	22.98
16	Uttarakhand	82.09
17	West Bengal	10.19
18	Tamil Nadu*	Nil
	Total	690.39

* Tamil Nadu State has not submitted perspective plan under Green India Mission

Total Funds allocated to States/UTs under CAMPA

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	CA	CAT	IWMP	NPV	Interest	Others	Total
1	Andaman and Nicobar	3.57	0.00	0.00	10.22	2.56	0.06	16.41
2	Andhra Pradesh	554.09	92.99	3.00	961.00	63.60	174.18	1,848.86
3	Arunachal Pradesh	523.17	169.86	24.05	1,261.92	66.58	156.08	2,201.66
4	Assam	100.91	25.47	0.00	503.10	14.08	65.59	709.15
5	Bihar	156.54	0.00	0.00	322.25	51.12	36.67	566.58
6	Chandigarh	7.89	0.00	0.00	2.92	0.56	0.00	11.37
7	Chhattisgarh	1,143.44	24.49	305.51	3,551.29	822.47	152.00	5,999.20
8	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	3.60	0.00	0.00	13.19	6.07	0.00	22.86
9	Delhi (2020-21)	108.08	0.00	0.00	19.03	11.07	0.00	138.18
10	Goa	22.18	0.00	0.00	136.13	77.36	2.49	238.16
11	Gujarat	505.10	0.00	12.79	877.91	54.64	34.16	1,484.60
12	Haryana	603.66	27.47	0.00	487.48	46.45	117.59	1,282.65
13	Himachal Pradesh	224.36	486.45	266.77	631.40	18.92	32.82	1,660.72
14	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	48.17	716.38	0.00	0.00	764.55
15	Jharkhand	453.25	0.00	178.15	2,828.01	220.13	478.48	4,158.02
16	Karnataka	150.46	35.59	0.00	944.60	81.23	138.49	1,350.37
17	Kerala	8.90	0.55	0.00	55.01	16.33	0.80	81.59
18	Ladakh	0.00	0.00	15.70	233.57	0.00	0.00	249.27
19	Madhya Pradesh	1,980.37	123.55	60.30	3,178.20	448.41	396.68	6,187.52
20	Maharashtra	1,141.35	169.76	37.28	2,120.16	441.67	219.24	4,129.46
21	Manipur	67.97	41.35	0.10	219.71	7.63	9.43	346.19
22	Meghalaya	6.01	0.98	0.00	104.55	46.82	4.95	163.31
23	Mizoram	26.38	8.92	0.00	175.87	0.25	1.56	212.98
24	Odisha	516.45	69.09	962.46	4,341.91	159.77	231.57	6,281.25
25	Punjab	493.34	1.69	0.00	510.39	39.64	25.28	1,070.33
26	Rajasthan	273.50	63.75	133.55	1,122.59	51.34	103.53	1,748.26
27	Sikkim	91.98	85.55	18.62	146.08	47.38	12.96	402.56
28	Tamil Nadu	31.88	0.86	0.52	60.03	6.66	13.47	113.42
29	Telangana	1,266.46	58.48	75.85	1,611.76	126.06	39.53	3,178.14
30	Tripura	60.66	0.00	0.00	113.50	8.04	49.44	231.64
31	Uttar Pradesh	729.50	5.27	0.00	875.59	77.88	131.40	1,819.64
32	Uttarakhand	358.73	69.59	62.52	1,517.00	140.71	645.53	2,794.09
33	West Bengal	72.78	18.89	0.69	159.39	27.01	27.00	305.76
	Total	11,686.56	1,580.61	2,206.03	29,812.14	3,182.45	3,300.97	51,768.76