

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 3212
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2023

Decrease in the Forest Area in Metropolitan Cities

3212. SHRI GHANSHYAM SINGH LODHI:

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

- (a) whether there is a decrease in the forest area in the metropolitan cities of the country and if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (b) whether the reduction in forests in metropolitan cities like Delhi is also increasing the pollution and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially since 1987 and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The FSI has published a study for the first time on the decadal change in forest cover in seven major mega cities between ISFR 2011 and ISFR 2021. As per the study, there is an increase in forest cover in some mega cities while there is decrease in forest cover in few other cities. Overall, there is an increase of 68 square kilometre in the forest cover of 7 major mega cities between ISFR 2011 to ISFR 2021. The details of decadal change in forest cover in seven mega cities between ISFR 2011 and ISFR 2021 are given in **Annexure**. The increase in forest cover may be attributed to conservation measures, afforestation activities, enhanced protection measures in plantation as well as in traditional forest areas, expansion of Tree Outside Forest.
- (b) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has not undertaken any study regarding correlation between reduction of forest and increase in the pollution. In fact, as per the ISFR 2011 and ISFR 2021 reports, the forest cover of Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad and Mumbai has increased over a period of 10 years.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3212 due for answer on 20.03.2023 regarding 'Decrease in the Forest Area in Metropolitan Cities'

Decadal change in Forest Cover in Major Mega Cities between ISFR 2011 and ISFR 2021

(Area in Square Kilometre)

| Mega Cities Name | State | ISFR 2011 | ISFR 2021 | Decadal forest cover change as per ISFR 2011 to ISFR 2021 |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| | | Total Forest Cover | Total Forest Cover | |
| Ahmedabad | Gujarat | 17.96 | 9.41 | -8.55 |
| Bengaluru | Karnataka | 94.00 | 89.02 | -4.98 |
| Chennai | Tamil Nadu | 18.02 | 22.70 | 4.68 |
| Delhi | Delhi | 174.33 | 194.24 | 19.91 |
| Hyderabad | Telangana | 33.15 | 81.81 | 48.66 |
| Kolkata | West Bengal | 2.52 | 1.77 | -0.75 |
| Mumbai | Maharashtra | 101.74 | 110.77 | 9.03 |
| Total | | 441.72 | 509.72 | 68.00 |

