GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4174
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2023

Illegal Deforestation

4174.   SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
          SHRI TAPIR GAO:

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

(a) whether environment has been adversely affected due to illegal deforestation in the country;
(b) if so, the decline in percentage in forest areas during the last three years as on date, State-wise;
(c) the efforts made by the Government to check deforestation;
(d) the details of the talks held with the State Governments in this regard during the last three years;
(e) the details of afforestation drive organised by the Government during the last three years to restore forest, State-wise; and
(f) whether the Government has any policy to promote afforestation programme in such areas having frequent landslides and if so, the details thereof?

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

(a)and (b) The Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry has been carrying out the assessment of forest cover of the country, biennially since 1987, and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). As per latest ISFR 2021, the total forest cover of the country is 7,13,789 square kilometre which is 21.71% of the geographical areaof the country. The trend for the last three ISFRs shows an increase in Forest cover of the country. The forest cover has increased by 3,976 square kilometre between ISFR 2017 and ISFR 2019 assessment while there is an increase of 1,540 square kilometre between ISFR 2019 and ISFR 2021 assessment. The State wise details of change in Forest Cover between ISFR 2017, ISFR 2019 and ISFR 2021 are given in **Annexure-I**.

Further, the Protection and management of forests are primarily the responsibility of concerned State/UT Governments, and various afforestation activities and forest protection measures are being taken up by the states to increase the forest cover and for sustainable management of the forests as per approved working plans**.**

(c)to (f)In order to increase the forest cover in the country, afforestation and tree plantation activities are undertaken by States/UTs. The Ministry provides financial assistance to States/UTs under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely Green India Mission to support and supplement the efforts of States and Union Territories.

The Ministry is implementing Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) since the year 2020 which envisages creation of 400 Nagar Vans and 200 Nagar Vatika in the country during the period 2020-21 to 2024-25 under the funds available under National Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA). The Nagar Van Yojana aims to enhance the green cover in the urban and peri-urban areas including biological diversity, provide ecological benefits and improve the quality of life of city dwellers.

The Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA fund) are being utilized by States/UTs for taking up compensatory afforestation as per approved Annual Plan of Operations for compensating the loss of forest & tree cover due to diversion of forest land for developmental projects as per provisions of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 (CAF Act) and CAF Rules, 2018.

Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes and schemes of line Ministry such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Bamboo Mission, Sub-Mission on Agroforestry etc. and under schemes of State Government/UT Administration through different departments, Non-Government Organizations, Civil Society, Corporate bodies etc. The multi departmental efforts have yielded good results in conserving and enhancing forest cover in the country.

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Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) and (b) of the LokSabhaUnstarred Question No. 4174 due for answer on 27.03.2023 regarding 'Illegal Deforestation'
State/UTs wise details of change in Forest Cover from ISFR 2017 to ISFR 2021

(Area in Square Kilometre)

| States/UTs | Geographical area | Forest Cover | | | Change in Forest Cover between ISFR 2017 & ISFR 2019 (b-a) | Change in Forest Cover between ISFR 2019 & ISFR 2021 (c-b) |
		ISFR 2017 (a)	ISFR 2019 (b)	ISFR 2021 (c)		
Andhra Pradesh	1,62,968	28,147	29,137	29,784	990	647
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	66,964	66,688	66,431	-276	-257
Assam	78,438	28,105	28,327	28,312	222	-15
Bihar	94,163	7,299	7,306	7,381	7	75
Chhattisgarh	1,35,192	55,547	55,611	55,717	64	106
Delhi	1,483	192.41	195.44	195	3.03	-0.44
Goa	3,702	2,229	2,237	2,244	8	7
Gujarat	1,96,244	14,757	14,857	14,926	100	69
Haryana	44,212	1,588	1,602	1,603	14	1
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	15,100	15,434	15,443	334	9
Jharkhand	79,716	23,553	23,611	23,721	58	110
Karnataka	1,91,791	37,550	38,575	38,730	1025	155
Kerala	38,852	20,321	21,144	21,253	823	109
Madhya Pradesh	3,08,252	77,414	77,482	77,493	68	11
Maharashtra	3,07,713	50,682	50,778	50,798	96	20
Manipur	22,327	17,346	16,847	16,598	-499	-249
Meghalaya	22,429	17,146	17,119	17,046	-27	-73
Mizoram	21,081	18,186	18,006	17,820	-180	-186
Nagaland	16,579	12,489	12,486	12,251	-3	-235
Odisha	1,55,707	51,345	51,619	52,156	274	537
Punjab	50,362	1,837	1,849	1,847	12	-2
Rajasthan	3,42,239	16,572	16,630	16,655	58	25
Sikkim	7,096	3,344	3,342	3,341	-2	-1
Tamil Nadu	1,30,060	26,281	26,364	26,419	83	55
Telangana	1,12,077	20,419	20,582	21,214	163	632
Tripura	10,486	7,726	7,726	7,722	0	-4
Uttar Pradesh	2,40,928	14,679	14,806	14,818	127	12
Uttarakhand	53,483	24,295	24,303	24,305	8	2
West Bengal	88,752	16,847	16,902	16,832	55	-70
A&N Islands	8,249	6,742	6,743	6,744	1	1
Chandigarh	114	21.56	22.03	22.88	0.47	0.85
Dadra & Nagar Haveli #	491	207	207	227.75	0	0.26
Daman & Diu #	111	20.49	20.49		0	
Jammu & Kashmir*	2,22,236	23,241	21,358	21,387	-1883	29
Ladakh		0	2,254	2,272	2254	18
Lakshadweep	30	27.10	27.10	27.10	0	0
Puducherry	490	53.67	52.41	53.30	-1.26	0.89
Grand Total	**32,87,469**	**7,08,273**	**7,12,249**	**7,13,789**	**3,976**	**1,540**

From ISFR 2019 onwards Jammu & Kashmir was divided into two UTs viz. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

 # From ISFR 2021 onwards Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu have been combined into one UT.