

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 2788
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2023

Forest Cover

2788. SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:

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

- (a) the trend in forest cover in the State of Andhra Pradesh since 2015, year-wise;
- (b) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted any proposals or plans for improving the green cover in the State;
- (c) if so, the details of the proposed initiatives and the progress made for their implementation; and
- (d) the number of forests that have been cleared in Andhra Pradesh since 2019?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun carries out the assessment of forest cover biennially, since 1987 and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The forest cover in the State of Andhra Pradesh has increased by 3,778 square kilometer between ISFR 2015 to ISFR 2021.

The details of forest cover in the State of Andhra Pradesh since 2015 as per ISFR reports is given below:-

S. No.	ISFR	Total Forest Cover (square kilometer)
1	2015	26,006
2	2017	28,147
3	2019	29,137
4	2021	29,784

(b) & (c) The Ministry provides financial assistance to States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme Green India Mission (GIM) to support and supplement the efforts of States and Union Territories, since 2015-16. The State Government submits the Annual Plan of Operations (APO) to the Ministry under various schemes for undertaking afforestation and eco-restoration activities so as to increase the green cover. So far, a sum of Rs. 6.19 Crore has been released to the State of Andhra Pradesh under Green India Mission for creation of plantation over an area of 1433 hectares.

The Ministry also provides financial assistance to States to funded under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA), under “Nagar Van Yojana” which 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. Till date, 13 proposals from Andhra Pradesh have been approved and an amount of Rs. 14.06 Crores have been released to the State of Andhra Pradesh under Nagar Van Yojana.

The Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA fund) is 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. During the last three years, an amount of Rs. 1848.86 Crore has been released to the State of Andhra Pradesh under CAMPA funds.

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.

(d) As per information provided by Andhra Pradesh Forest Department, an area of 1223.489 hectares of forests have been cleared for 125 projects under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, since 2019.
