

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 198
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2023

Steps to Increase Forest Covers

198. MS. DEBASREE CHAUDHURI:

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

- (a) the names of States/UTs where forest cover has increased/decreased during the last three years;
- (b) the details of the Schemes implemented by the Government to increase forest cover and develop new forest areas in various cities of the country, State/UT-wise including West Bengal; and
- (c) whether the Government has any scheme to increase forest coverage on the basis of their utility and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise?

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 conducts biennial assessments of forest cover and the findings are published as India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The states witnessing changes in forest cover between the ISFR-2019 and ISFR-2021 reporting periods are detailed in **Annexure-I** and **Annexure-II**.

(b) & (c) The Ministry provides technical and financial assistance to States/UTs under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely, Green India Mission (GIM), Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme, CAMPA, Nagar Van Yojana and other schemes of line ministries to increase the forest and tree cover of the country.

Green India Mission, initiated during 2015-16, aims to protect, restore and enhance India's forest cover by restoration of degraded forest lands and undertaking afforestation activities in the forest and non-forest areas.

The Ministry is implementing the Nagar Van Yojana which envisages creation of 600 Nagar Vans and 400 Nagar Vatika in the country during the period 2020-21 to 2026-27. The Nagar Van Yojana aims at enhancing the green cover in the urban and peri-urban areas and augmenting biological diversity.

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

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.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 198 due for answer on 04.12.2023 regarding “Steps to Increase Forest Covers”

Details of States/UTs showing increase in Forest Cover between ISFR 2019 and ISFR 2021

(Area in Square Kilometer)

S. No.	States/UTs	Geographical area	ISFR 2019 (a)	ISFR 2021 (b)	Change in Forest Cover between ISFR 2021 & ISFR 2019 (b-a)
1	Andhra Pradesh	1,62,968	29,137	29,784	647
2	Telangana	1,12,077	20,582	21,214	632
3	Odisha	1,55,707	51,619	52,156	537
4	Karnataka	1,91,791	38,575	38,730	155
5	Jharkhand	79,716	23,611	23,721	110
6	Kerala	38,852	21,144	21,253	109
7	Chhattisgarh	1,35,192	55,611	55,717	106
8	Bihar	94,163	7,306	7,381	75
9	Gujarat	1,96,244	14,857	14,926	69
10	Tamil Nadu	1,30,060	26,364	26,419	55
11	Rajasthan	3,42,239	16,630	16,655	25
12	Jammu & Kashmir	2,22,236	21,358	21,387	29
13	Ladakh		2,254	2,272	18
14	Maharashtra	3,07,713	50,778	50,798	20
15	Uttar Pradesh	2,40,928	14,806	14,818	12
16	Madhya Pradesh	3,08,252	77,482	77,493	11
17	Himachal Pradesh	55,673	15,434	15,443	9
18	Goa	3,702	2,237	2,244	7
19	Uttarakhand	53,483	24,303	24,305	2
20	Haryana	44,212	1,602	1,603	1
21	A&N Islands	8,249	6,743	6,744	1
22	Puducherry	490	52.41	53.3	0.89
23	Chandigarh	114	22.03	22.88	0.85
24	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	207.16	227.75	0.10
25	Daman & Diu	111	20.49		

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 198 due for answer on 04.12.2023 regarding “Steps to Increase Forest Covers”

Details of States/UTs showing decrease in Forest Cover between ISFR 2019 and ISFR 2021

(Area in Square Kilometer)

S. No.	States/UTs	Geographical area	ISFR 2019 (a)	ISFR 2021 (b)	Change in Forest Cover w.r.t. ISFR 2019 (b-a)
1	Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	66,688	66,431	-257
2	Manipur	22,327	16,847	16,598	-249
3	Nagaland	16,579	12,486	12,251	-235
4	Mizoram	21,081	18,006	17,820	-186
5	Meghalaya	22,429	17,119	17,046	-73
6	West Bengal	88,752	16,902	16,832	-70
7	Assam	78,438	28,327	28,312	-15
8	Tripura	10,486	7,726	7,722	-4
9	Punjab	50,362	1,849	1,847	-2
10	Sikkim	7,096	3,342	3,341	-1
11	Delhi	1,483	195.44	195	-0.44