

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOKSABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4239**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2019

**Deforestation**

4239. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

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

- (a) the number of trees cut for paper and infrastructure development during the last decade, State-wise;
- (b) the number of trees planted annually during the last decade, State-wise;
- (c) whether the total forest cover of the country is declining; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the other measures taken by the Government to check deforestation?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)**

(a) & (b) The Government Policy is to ensure more trees are planted than removed under different developmental proposals approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In the last decade 38,22,22,786 number of trees were removed and plantation of more than 801,62,26,022 trees have been stipulated under compensatory afforestation. The details as received from states/UTs are annexed.

(c) & (d) The trees are removed only when it is absolutely necessary. Moreover, as per the Government policy, more trees are planted than number of trees approved for removal. This policy has contributed significantly towards increase in forest and tree cover in the country. Government's efforts to plant more trees than removed has also been reflected in the assessments in biennial India State of Forest Reports (ISFR) by Forest Survey of India. As per the biennial edition of ISFR of 2017, the forest and tree cover has increased by 8021 square km as compared to that of ISFR 2015 assessment.

Government of India, as per the provisions under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, accords prior permission for change in land use from forest to non-forest. Such permissions are accorded subject to recommendation of the concerned State/UT Government and for unavoidable developmental projects/purposes. While according such permissions, it is ensured that minimum number of trees are removed which are inevitable.

Following measures are taken to ensure removal of minimum number of trees and to check deforestation:

- i) The trees are removed only when it is absolutely necessary.
- ii) Wherever possible, trees marked for removal are translocated.
- iii) All such removal and translocation of trees are taken-up under the strict supervision of the concerned State Forest Department.
- iv) To check illicit felling, the matter is monitored and controlled by well-organized Forest Department in every State/UT. Offenses arising out of illicit felling are dealt under India Forest Act, 1927 and other State specific acts etc. as applicable.

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| <b>Annexure</b>  |                         |   |  |
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| <b>Annexure referred in the answer to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question no. 4239 asked by Shri Dushyant Singh due for answer on 13.12.2019 regarding "Deforestation".</b> |                         |   |  |
| <b>S. No.</b>  | <b>Name of State/UT</b> | <b>No of trees removed in the last decade</b> | <b>Total no. of trees stipulated for plantation in last decade</b> |
| 1  | Andaman and Nicobar     | 12576   | 116250   |
| 2  | Andhra Pradesh          | 248335  | 743313042  |
| 3  | Assam                   | 8888899                                       | 97728812   |
| 4  | Bihar                   | 279221  | 228307300  |
| 5  | Chandigarh              | 0   | 739517   |
| 6  | Delhi                   | 70183   | 12410604   |
| 7  | Goa                     | 127939  | 2251396  |
| 8  | Gujarat                 | 359134  | 1299652000   |
| 9  | Haryana                 | 2081517                                       | 157762167  |
| 10   | Himachal Pradesh        | 893684  | 141784839  |
| 11   | Jharkhand               | 309218  | 224453988  |
| 12   | Karnataka               | 23066762                                      | 628976000  |
| 13   | Lakshadweep             | 0   | 0  |
| 14   | Maharashtra             | 1236587                                       | 858064000  |
| 15   | Manipur                 | 127722  | 101884879  |

|                    |               |                  |                   |
|--------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 16                 | Meghalaya     | 151433           | 570220            |
| 17                 | Mizoram       | 29021            | 37944603          |
| 18                 | Nagaland      | 1030000          | 610000            |
| 19                 | Pondicherry   | 0                | 335000            |
| 20                 | Punjab        | 537481           | 57043105          |
| 21                 | Rajasthan     | 1123878          | 220282500         |
| 22                 | Sikkim        | 160538           | 28035000          |
| 23                 | Tamilnadu     | 2102072          | 167900000         |
| 24                 | Telangana     | 334370000        | 1900000000        |
| 25                 | Tripura       | 19270            | 43299000          |
| 26                 | Uttar Pradesh | 4146400          | 688841600         |
| 27                 | Uttarakhand   | 795510           | 193189000         |
| 28                 | West Bengal   | 55406            | 180731200         |
| <b>Grand Total</b> |               | <b>382222786</b> | <b>8016226022</b> |