

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1105
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2020

Cutting of Trees

1105: SHRI B.B. PATIL:

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

- (a) the number of trees cut in the country for development purposes during the last three years, year-wise, State and UT-wise and;
- (b) the action Government proposes to take to ensure that trees are not cut for development and other purposes?

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 three years 76,72,337 number of trees were removed and plantation of more than 7,87,00,000 trees have been stipulated under compensatory afforestation. The year wise details of trees removed and stipulated for plantation are annexed.

The trees are removed only when it is absolutely necessary. As a general policy, more trees are planted than number of trees approved for removal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. This policy has been contributing to the increase in India's forest cover. As per the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Government of India 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.

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. The forest and tree cover as reported in ISFR-2019 has increased by 13,209sq km as compared to that of ISFR 2015 assessment.

Annexure

Lok Sabha Parliament Question No. 1105 for Cutting of Tree from 01.04.2016 to 31.03.2019

S. No.	State/Uts	Permission of removal of tree (nos.) against the FCA approvals			Total
		2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	
1	Andaman and Nicobar	6385	947	5135	12467
2	Andhra Pradesh	41633	255039	198597	495269
3	Arunachal Pradesh	3623	309639	11998	325260
4	Assam	787	309	117799	118895
5	Bihar	6332	42274	43244	91850
6	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	173033	64747	427352	665132
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	3178	58	0	3236
11	Goa	0	3765	0	3765
12	Gujarat	12990	70086	82363	165439
13	Haryana	29221	35825	107148	172194
14	Himachal Pradesh	4168	55370	102139	161677
15	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0
16	Jharkhand	15748	11907	406929	434584
17	Karnataka	17518	21428	1830	40776
18	Kerala	194	0	531	725
19	Lakshdeep	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	259415	368503	326849	954767
21	Maharashtra	599472	329019	144993	1073484
22	Manipur	3102	120786	0	123888
23	Meghalaya	317	0	0	317
24	Mizoram	339	220	189	748
25	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
26	Orissa	22218	274703	361544	658465
27	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0
28	Punjab	12493	121453	95005	228951
29	Rajasthan	205339	324	22917	228580
30	Sikkim	885	6387	1358	8630
31	Tamil Nadu	936	270	819	2025
32	Telangana	32407	658104	522242	1212753
33	Tripura	248	215	120	583
34	Uttar Pradesh	95295	81060	29196	205551
35	Uttarakhand	14072	69623	21766	105461
36	West Bengal	170609	1677	4579	176865
Grand Total		1731957	2903738	3036642	7672337