

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2643
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.03.2020

Forest Area

2643. SHRI JYOTIRMAY SINGH MAHATO:

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

- (a) the status of dense forest areas in the country during the last three years;
- (b) the details thereof during last five years;
- (c) whether any forest area has turned into deforested area; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof at present?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). As per the latest ISFR 2019, a total of 4,07,750 square kilometre (km²) of forest is categorized under dense forest which includes Very Dense Forest (VDF) with canopy density greater than 70% and Moderately Dense Forest (MDF) with canopy density greater than 40% and less than 70%.
- (b) The details of dense forest cover during last five years, as per ISFRs:

(area in km²)

ISFR	VDF	MDF	Total Dense Forest
2015	85,904	3,15,374	4,01,278
2017	98,158	3,08,318	4,06,476
2019	99,278	3,08,472	4,07,750

- (c) & (d) 11,144 km² area assessed as VDF, MDF and open forest in ISFR-2017, has become non-forest area as per ISFR 2019. Change in density classes of forests is a dynamic process and occurs in both directions. Thus non-forest or open forest area may pass on to dense forest area over time and vice versa. As per latest survey, during the same period there has been an overall increase of 5188 km² in forest and tree cover in the country.
