

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2738
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.03.2020

Forest Cover in India

2738. SHRI RITESH PANDEY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the likely impact of climate change on Indian forests, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the progress made under the Green India Mission to address the issue of development of wood energy;
- (c) whether the reports of increasing forest cover in the country can be attributed to better conservation techniques of existing trees or planting of new trees; and
- (d) the further steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) As part of the first and second National Communications submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Ministry has conducted studies on impact of climate change on forests in India. The studies project variable impacts in terms of composition of forests and net primary productivity.

(b) Green India Mission (GIM) under the National Action Plan on Climate Change aims at protecting, restoring and enhancing India's forest cover and responding to Climate Change. The scheme has released INR 343.079 Crore to thirteen states since 2015-16 for carrying out restoration and plantation activities in 126,569 hectares and distribution of alternative fuel energy devices to 56,319 households.

(c) As per India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2019 increase in forest cover is the result of sustained conservation, protection and afforestation efforts implemented on the ground under the policies and schemes of the Central and State Governments.

(d) Government of India is implementing various schemes and programmes for conservation and enhancing forest/tree cover in the country, such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP), National Mission for a Green India (GIM) and Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF). The Ministry also supports school nursery and urban forestry programmes through people's participation. Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes/funding sources including Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and under the schemes of States/Union Territories.

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