

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3322
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2020

Illegal Cutting of Forests

3322. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that there is an adverse effect on environment due to illegal cutting of forest in the country;
- (b) if so, the percentage of decline in forest cover noticed during the last three years as on date, State-wise; and
- (c) the efforts made by the Government to check the illegal cutting of forests and the details of the talks held with the State Governments in this regard during the last three years till date?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c) Protection and management of forests and trees is primarily the responsibility of the States and UTs. State Governments/Union Territory administration take appropriate action regarding illegal cutting of trees as per the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, various acts of State/UT and the rules and regulations made thereunder. No specific study on impact of felling of trees on environment has been carried out by the ministry.

Forest and Tree Cover assessment for the country is carried out every two years by Forest Survey of India and the findings are published as India State of Forest Report (ISFR). Based on last three ISFR (ISFR 2015, ISFR 2017 and ISFR 2019), there is an overall increase of 10,754 square kilometre (km²) in the forest and tree cover in the country. Some decline in forest cover has been observed in only a few States/UTs in the ISFR-2019 as compared to ISFR-2017, including in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim due to various reasons such as shifting cultivation, developmental activities such as mining, construction of dams, road and railway network, etc. Details of State/UT wise forest cover are annexed.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change provides financial assistance to the States and UTs for protection and management of forests under Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as Forest Fire Protection and Management Scheme, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat (IDWH), etc. The aim is to supplement the efforts of the States and UTs towards protection and management of forests.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3322 due for answer on 13.02.2020 regarding 'Illegal Cutting of Forests'

States/UTs	Forest Cover (in square kilometre)		
	ISFR 2015	ISFR 2017	ISFR 2019
Andhra Pradesh	24424	28147	29137
Arunachal Pradesh	67248	66964	66688
Assam	27623	28105	28327
Bihar	7288	7299	7306
Chhattisgarh	55586	55547	55611
Delhi	188.77	192.41	195.44
Goa	2224	2229	2237
Gujarat	14660	14757	14857
Haryana	1584	1588	1602
Himachal Pradesh	14696	15100	15434
Jammu & Kashmir	22988	23241	23612
Jharkhand	23478	23553	23611
Karnataka	36421	37550	38575
Kerala	19239	20321	21144
Madhya Pradesh	77462	77414	77482
Maharashtra	50628	50682	50778
Manipur	16994	17346	16847
Meghalaya	17217	17146	17119
Mizoram	18748	18186	18006
Nagaland	12966	12489	12486
Odisha	50354	51345	51619
Punjab	1771	1837	1849
Rajasthan	16171	16572	16630
Sikkim	3357	3344	3342
Tamil Nadu	26345	26281	26364
Telangana	21591	20419	20582
Tripura	7811	7726	7726
Uttar Pradesh	14461	14679	14806
Uttarakhand	24240	24295	24303
West Bengal	16828	16847	16902
A&N Islands	6751	6742	6743
Chandigarh	22.03	21.56	22.03
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	206	207	207
Daman & Diu	19.61	20.49	20.49
Lakshadweep	27.06	27.1	27.1
Puducherry	55.38	53.67	52.41
Grand Total	701673	708273	712249