

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2910
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2021

Forest Cover

2910. SHRI TIRATH SINGH RAWAT:

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

- (a) the total forest cover along with the percentage increase/decrease in forest cover across the country during the last ten years;
- (b) whether the forest area has decreased due to forest fires and other reasons in the Himalayan region, particularly in Uttarakhand;
- (c) whether the Union Government has provided or proposes to provide green bonus to the Himalayan States including Uttarakhand; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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). The forest cover assessment is a wall-to-wall mapping exercise based on remote sensing supported by intensive ground verification and field data from National Forest Inventory. ISFR-2019 is the latest report in the series. As per ISFR 2019, total forest cover of the country is 7,12,249 square kilometers which is 21.67% of the geographical area of the country. The current assessment shows an increase of 3976 square kilometer of forest cover at the national level as compared to the previous assessment i.e. ISFR 2017.

As per ISFR published by Forest Survey of India, details of change in forest cover for the last ten year are as follows:-

ISFR year	Total Forest Cover (area in square kilometer)
2011	692027
2013	697898
2015	701495
2017	708273
2019	712249

There is an increase of 20,222 square kilometre in forest cover in the country between ISFR 2019 to ISFR 2011, which contributes to a total of 2.92% increase of forest cover w.r.t. the forest cover reported in ISFR 2011.

- (b) No Sir. The forest area has not decreased due to forest fire and other reasons in the Himalayan region particularly in Uttarakhand. As per ISFR-2019, the forest cover in the State of Uttarakhand is 24,303.04 square kilometre which is 45.44% of the State's geographical area. The forest cover for the State of Uttarakhand has increased by 8.04 square kilometre as compared to the previous assessment reported in ISFR-2017.
- (c) & (d) The Union Government has not provided or proposes to provide green bonus to the Himalayan States, however, the XV finance Commission has assigned 10% weight to forest and ecology in its horizontal devolution criteria and weights. The criterion has been arrived at by calculating the share of dense forest of each State, including Uttarakhand, in the aggregate dense forest of all the States.
