

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4011**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2021

**Survey of Forest Area**

4011. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SONI:  
SHRI VIJAY BAGHEL:

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to conduct Survey of Forest resources and forest area with the help of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) or any other modern technology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether obstacles are being faced by the Government in surveying the forest areas across the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of techniques being used/likely to be used by the Government for survey of forest resource and forest area?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (d) The Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially since 1987 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. As per ISFR 2019, the total forest and tree cover of the country is 8,07,276 square kilometers which is 24.56 % of the geographical area of the country. There is an increase of 13,209 square kilometer of forest and tree cover at the national level in the ISFR-2019 as compared to the ISFR-2015.

Over the last three decades, FSI has regularly improved methodology for forest cover mapping. Up to the year 1999, the forest cover mapping used to be done largely by visual interpretation method. In the year 2001, a complete switch-over to the digital interpretation based approach was adopted. In the ISFR-2019, significant improvements in methodology of satellite data interpretation for forest cover mapping has been undertaken. However, at present, there is no proposal to conduct survey of forest resources and forest area with the help of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV).

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