

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4063
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2021

Lack of Forest Areas in States

4063. SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY:

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

- (a) the details of such areas in the country where there is no forest area or minimal forest area, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether environmental issues such as air pollution and scarcity of rain are being faced in such areas;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to chalk out a plan for afforestation /tree plantation in such areas; 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 (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). 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. The State/UTs wise details of forest and tree cover as per ISFR-2019 is given in **Annexure**.
- (b) There is no information on directly correlating forest area with air pollution and scarcity of rain. However, in general, forests help in absorbing carbon dioxide and other gaseous pollutants and releasing oxygen, thereby improving air quality. Tree cover also generally helps in ground water recharge, thereby, improving ground water table and reducing runoff.
- (c) & (d) Various schemes are being implemented by Central and State Government / Union Territory Administration for increase in forest cover of the country. These include National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and Green India Mission (GIM) being implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes/ funding sources such as Mahatma

Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Compensatory Afforestation Funds under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). Afforestation activities are also taken up under various schemes of State Government /UT Administration.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is also implementing National Agroforestry Policy 2014 with an objective to meet the demand of timber, food, fuel, fodder, fertilizer, fibre and other agroforestry products, conserving the natural resources and forest; protecting the environment & providing environmental security; and increasing the forest/tree cover. Also, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root & tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa and bamboo.

Annexure referred to reply in part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4063 due for answer on 19.03.2021 regarding 'Lack of Forest Areas in States'.

State/UTs wise details of Forest and Tree Cover as per ISFR 2019

(Area in square kilometre)

State/UTs	Geographic Area	Forest Cover	Percentage of forest cover to geographical area	Tree Cover	Percentage of tree cover to geographical area
Andhra Pradesh	1,62,968	29,137	17.88	3,914	2.40
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	66,688	79.63	848	1.01
Assam	78,438	28,327	36.11	1,408	1.80
Bihar	94,163	7,306	7.76	2,003	2.13
Chhattisgarh	1,35,192	55,611	41.13	4,248	3.14
Delhi	1,483	195.44	13.18	129	8.73
Goa	3,702	2,237	60.43	272	7.34
Gujarat	1,96,244	14,857	7.57	6,912	3.52
Haryana	44,212	1,602	3.62	1,565	3.54
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	15,434	27.72	829	1.49
Jammu & Kashmir	2,22,236	23,612	10.62	7,944	3.57
Jharkhand	79,716	23,611	29.62	2,657	3.33
Karnataka	1,91,791	38,575	20.11	6,257	3.26
Kerala	38,852	21,144	54.42	2,936	7.56
Madhya Pradesh	3,08,252	77,482	25.14	8,339	2.71
Maharashtra	3,07,713	50,778	16.50	10,806	3.51
Manipur	22,327	16,847	75.46	173	0.77
Meghalaya	22,429	17,119	76.33	710	3.17
Mizoram	21,081	18,006	85.41	441	2.09
Nagaland	16,579	12,486	75.31	362	2.19
Odisha	1,55,707	51,619	33.15	4,648	2.98
Punjab	50,362	1,849	3.67	1,592	3.16
Rajasthan	3,42,239	16,630	4.86	8,112	2.37
Sikkim	7,096	3,342	47.10	36	0.51
Tamil Nadu	1,30,060	26,364	20.27	4,830	3.71
Telangana	1,12,077	20,582	18.36	2,514	2.24
Tripura	10,486	7,726	73.68	231	2.20
Uttar Pradesh	2,40,928	14,806	6.15	7,342	3.05
Uttarakhand	53,483	24,303	45.44	841	1.57
West Bengal	88,752	16,902	19.04	2,006	2.26
A&N Islands	8,249	6,743	81.74	41	0.50
Chandigarh	114	22.03	19.32	25	22.34
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	207	42.16	28	5.75
Daman & Diu	111	20.49	18.46	5	4.87
Lakshadweep	30	27.10	90.33	0.29	0.97
Puducherry	490	52.41	10.70	23	4.66
Grand Total	32,87,469	7,12,249	21.67	95,027	2.89