

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 719**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2021

**Green Cover**

719. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWAR:

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

- (a) the details of such areas that have adequate green area coverage of trees and forest in the country;
- (b) the names of the States that have recorded the highest and lowest green area coverage in the country;
- (c) whether people lead much healthy lives/lifestyles in green coverage States/areas compared to other States/areas with lower area under green coverage; 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.

As per the latest report i.e. ISFR- 2019, the total forest cover of the country is 7,12,249 square kilometer which is 21.67% of the geographical area of the country. The tree cover of the country which is defined as small and isolated of tree patches (of less than 1 hectare) outside recorded forest area, is estimated as 95,027 square kilometre (km<sup>2</sup>) which is 2.89% of the geographical area of the country. The State/UTs wise details of forest cover alongwith percentage as per ISFR-2019 is given in Annexure.

- (b) As per ISFR-2019, area wise Madhya Pradesh has largest forest cover (77,482 Km<sup>2</sup>) and Haryana has lowest forest cover (1602 Km<sup>2</sup>). Among Union Territories (UTs), Delhi (195.44 Km<sup>2</sup>) has highest forest cover and Daman and Diu has lowest forest cover (20.49 Km<sup>2</sup>).

- (c) & (d) The Ministry has not conducted any specific study in this regard. However, it is a fact that forests are essential to human being as they provide clean air and water and other essential ecosystem services such as timber, food, fuel, fodder, non-wood products, shelter and soil and water conservation. Forests also serve as sites of aesthetic, recreational and spiritual value in many cultural and societal contexts. Hence, forests contribute significantly to a healthy environment and thereby help in maintaining good health of people.

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## Annexure

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 719 due for answer on 05.02.2021 regarding 'Green Cover'**

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

**(Area in square kilometre)**

<b>State/UTs</b>	<b>Geographic Area</b>	<b>Forest Cover (ISFR 2019)</b>	<b>Percentage of forest cover to geographical area</b>	<b>Tree Cover</b>	<b>Percentage of tree cover to geographical area</b>
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
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>32,87,469</b>	<b>7,12,249</b>	<b>21.67</b>	<b>95,027</b>	<b>2.89</b>