

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.849
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2021

Forest Area Coverage in Bihar

849. SHRI MAHABALI SINGH:

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

- (a) the total forest area in Bihar currently;
- (b) the total geographical area required to be under forest as per prescribed norms in each district of Bihar; and
- (c) the names of all districts of Bihar which have prescribed forest area/do not have prescribed area under forest in accordance with the formally laid down norms/guidelines?

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 Bihar 7,306 square kilometre which is 7.76% of the geographical area of the State.
- (b) The National Forest Policy, 1988 provide that the national goal should be to have a minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. In the hills and in mountainous regions, the aim should be to maintain two-third of the area under such cover in order to prevent erosion and land degradation and to ensure the stability of the fragile eco-system.
- (c) As per ISFR-2019, the district-wise forest cover of Bihar is given in **Annexure**. The forest cover in the district of Jamui (647.95 square kilometre, 69.60% of the total geographical area of the district) and Kaimur (1056.39 square kilometre, 41.12% of the total geographical area of the district) in the State of Bihar is more than 33% of the geographical area of the district.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 849 due for answer on 05.02.2021 regarding 'Forest Area Coverage in Bihar'

District wise of Bihar as per ISFR-2019

(Area in square kilometre)

| S. No. | District | Geographical area | Total Forest | percentage of Geographical Area |
|--------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Araria | 2,830 | 151.01 | 5.34 |
| 2 | Arwal | 638 | 4.00 | 0.63 |
| 3 | Aurangabad | 3,305 | 156.76 | 4.74 |
| 4 | Banka | 3,020 | 260.73 | 8.63 |
| 5 | Begusarai | 1,918 | 81.95 | 4.27 |
| 6 | Bhagalpur | 2,569 | 69.73 | 2.91 |
| 7 | Bhojpur | 2,395 | 32.25 | 1.89 |
| 8 | Buxar | 1,703 | 5.89 | 0.26 |
| 9 | Darbhanga | 2,279 | 137.66 | 2.77 |
| 10 | Gaya | 4,976 | 590.31 | 29.04 |
| 11 | Gopalganj | 2,033 | 4.91 | 0.16 |
| 12 | Jamui | 3,098 | 647.95 | 69.60 |
| 13 | Jehanabad | 931 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 14 | Kaimur(Bhabua) | 3,332 | 1,056.39 | 41.12 |
| 15 | Katihar | 3,057 | 61.98 | 2.03 |
| 16 | Khagaria | 1,486 | 18.45 | 1.24 |
| 17 | Kishanganj | 1,884 | 103.70 | 5.50 |
| 18 | Lakhisarai | 1,228 | 180.41 | 14.69 |
| 19 | Madhepura | 1,788 | 52.88 | 2.96 |
| 20 | Madhubani | 3,501 | 204.07 | 5.83 |
| 21 | Munger | 1,419 | 283.60 | 19.99 |
| 22 | Muzaffarpur | 3,172 | 161.82 | 5.10 |
| 23 | Nalanda | 2,355 | 31.85 | 1.35 |
| 24 | Nawada | 2,494 | 513.50 | 20.59 |
| 25 | PashchimChampan | 5,228 | 904.66 | 17.30 |
| 26 | Patna | 3,202 | 23.54 | 0.74 |
| 27 | PurbiChampan | 3,968 | 163.86 | 4.13 |
| 28 | Purnia | 3,229 | 55.67 | 1.72 |
| 29 | Rohtas | 3,881 | 672.23 | 17.32 |
| 30 | Saharsa | 1,687 | 34.62 | 2.05 |
| 31 | Samastipur | 2,904 | 153.36 | 5.28 |
| 32 | Saran | 2,641 | 59.13 | 2.24 |
| 33 | Sheikhpura | 689 | 1.00 | 0.15 |
| 34 | Sheohar | 349 | 20.58 | 5.90 |
| 35 | Sitamarhi | 2,294 | 147.78 | 6.44 |
| 36 | Siwan | 2,219 | 7.16 | 0.32 |
| 37 | Supaul | 2,425 | 138.78 | 5.72 |
| 38 | Vaishali | 2,036 | 111.82 | 5.49 |
| | Grand Total | 94,163 | 7,305.99 | 7.76 |