

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2068
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2021

Buffer Zone between Human Habitat and Reserved Forest Area

2068. SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that with growth and development, forest area is shrinking and human habitat is coming close to designated reserved forest areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to create such buffer zone for the preservation of forest and animals and restrict shrinking of reserved forest; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) & (b) 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.
- (c) & (d) Eco Sensitive Zones (ESZ) are declared around National Parks and Sanctuaries through Notification under the provisions of Section 3 (2) (V) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Rules made there under. So, far, out of 670 National Parks and Sanctuaries, notifications for Eco-Sensitive Zones around 573 National Parks and Sanctuaries have been issued by the Ministry.
