

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 3003
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 06.08.2021

Decline in Forest Area

3003. SHRIMATI SANDHYA RAY:
SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA:

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

- (a) whether the forest covered area of the country is decreasing continuously and rapidly;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to tackle it;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to engage and increase the role of private sector in order to increase and conserve forest areas of the country by involving private land;
- (d) if so, the details of such schemes being implemented in the country along with the policies/guidelines in this regard, State/UT-wise including Rajasthan;
- (e) the details of funds allocated and assistance provided to States for increasing the forest area, along with the success achieved therein during the last three years, State/UT-wise including Rajasthan; and
- (f) whether the Government proposes to provide concession in taxes and compensation to those people who develop forests on large areas of private land and 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 cover in country is increasing. 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. 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. The State/UTs wise details of forest and tree cover as per ISFR-2019 is given in **Annexure-I**.

The State/UTs wise details of change in forest and tree cover as compared with ISFR-2019 and ISFR-2015 is given in **Annexure-II**.

- (c), (d) & (e) Private Sector is taking up afforestation programme on areas outside forests, largely in partnership with farmers and other land owners. The National Forest Policy, 1988 provides that as far as possible, a forest-based industry should raise the raw material needed for meeting its own requirements, preferably by establishment of a direct relationship between the factory and the individuals who can grow the raw material by supporting the individuals with inputs including credit, constant technical advice and finally harvesting and transport services.

Further, various schemes are being implemented by Central and State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration for improvement of forest cover in 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/schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Compensatory Afforestation Funds under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). In addition State and UT Government also implement various schemes of afforestation. The State /UT-wise details of fund released under National Afforestation Programme, Green India Mission and Compensatory Afforestation Funds for the last three years are given in **Annexure-III, IV and V**.

- (f) At present, there is no proposal to provide concession in taxes and compensation to those people who develop forests on large areas of private land.

Annexure I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3003
due for answer on 06.08.2021 regarding 'Decline in Forest Area'

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

Forest Cover = 21.67% of total geographical area.

Tree Cover = 2.89% of total geographical area.

Total Tree and Forest Cover = 24.56% of total geographical area.

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3003 due for answer on 06.08.2021 regarding 'Decline in Forest Area'

State/UTs wise Change in forest and tree cover as per ISFR-2019 and 2015.

(Area in square kilometre)

S. No	State/UT	Increase/decrease in forest cover w.r.t. ISFR 2015 (as per ISFR 2019)	Increase/decrease in tree cover w.r.t. ISFR 2015 (as per ISFR 2019)
1	Andhra Pradesh	3131	-51
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-466	87
3	Assam	789	-205
4	Bihar	52	-179
5	Chhattisgarh	52	619
6	Delhi	6.67	18
7	Goa	27	-53
8	Gujarat	147	-1002
9	Haryana	22	210
10	Himachal Pradesh	727	72
11	Jammu & Kashmir	624	-410
12	Jharkhand	87	-126
13	Karnataka	2126	705
14	Kerala	1866	-15
15	Madhya Pradesh	56	566
16	Maharashtra	79	1248
17	Manipur	-236	-70
18	Meghalaya	-143	0
19	Mizoram	-711	-94
20	Nagaland	-453	-19
21	Odisha	1159	662
22	Punjab	78	48
23	Rajasthan	524	-157
24	Sikkim	-11	1
25	Tamil Nadu	156	325
26	Telangana	728	-35
27	Tripura	-164	-2
28	Uttar Pradesh	405	298
29	Uttarakhand	31	89
30	West Bengal	76	-82
31	A & N Islands	-8	4
32	Chandigarh	0.37	16
33	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	0
34	Daman & Diu	0.88	-5
35	Lakshadweep	0.04	-3.71
36	Puducherry	-4.54	-4
Total		10754	2455

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3003
due for answer on 06.08.2021 regarding 'Decline in Forest Area'.**

Details of State wise funds released under National Afforestation Programme

(Rupees in Crore)				
S. No.	State	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21
1	Andhra Pradesh	6.38	0.00	0.00
2	Bihar	0.00	1.18	0.80
3	Chhattisgarh	7.82	5.71	9.88
4	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Himachal Pradesh	2.92	0.52	0.57
8	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Karnataka	10.99	0.00	0.00
11	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Madhya Pradesh	7.78	0.00	0.57
13	Maharashtra	15.33	0.00	0.00
14	Odisha	11.36	8.45	13.67
15	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	Rajasthan	1.95	0.00	0.00
17	Tamil Nadu	2.07	0.00	0.00
18	Telangana	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	Uttar Pradesh	0.32	0.00	0.00
20	Uttarakhand	2.58	0.00	1.06
21	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00
23	Assam	0.58	0.00	0.00
24	Manipur	4.38	0.00	0.00
25	Meghalaya	0.74	0.00	0.00
26	Mizoram	7.79	0.00	7.40
27	Nagaland	6.41	2.35	4.27
28	Sikkim	5.98	0.00	0.88
29	Tripura	0.00	3.76	1.33
	Total	95.38	21.97	40.43

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State-wise details of funds released under Green India Mission.

(Rs. in Lakh)				
Sl. No.	State/UT	2018-19	2019-2020	2020-21
1	Andhra Pradesh	266.62	-	-
2	Chhattisgarh	536.07	503.608	166.0924
3	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	1708.5
4	Jammu & Kashmir (UT)	-	-	2572.7
5	Karnataka	162.34	220.993	235.1396
6	Kerala	-	1631.813	-
7	Manipur	488.81	416.229	673.635
8	Mizoram	2236.4	1770.901	299.4801
9	Odisha	474.33	1418.919	2601.436
10	Punjab	-	318.57	-
11	Uttarakhand	-	-	2789.1
12	Madhya Pradesh	2415.9	3065.298	-
13	Maharashtra	1030.2	-	-
14	Sikkim	332.36	312.42	219.287
15	West Bengal	-	942.6488	-
	Total	7943.03	10601.3998	11265.3701

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3003
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State wise approved annual plan of operation by Adhoc CAMPA for the year 2018-19 and National Authority for the financial year 2019-20 to 2020-21. (Rs. In Crore)				
Sl. No.	Name State/UTs	Year 2018-19	Year 2019-20	Year 2020-21
1	Andaman & Nicobar	1.56	0.00*	2.13
2	Andhra Pradesh	104.47	322.97	330.82
3	Arunachal Pradesh	354.15	0.00*	155.46
4	Assam	45.84	55.89	88.34
5	Bihar	46.62	140.18	239.47
6	Chandigarh	1.27	1.87	2.26
7	Chhattisgarh	0.00	848.51	1346.92
8	Goa	0.00	0.00*	19.55
9	Gujarat	212.66	17.95	32.68
10	Haryana	144.20	0.00***	240.69
11	Himachal Pradesh	132.52	96.84	203.95
12	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	145.82	158.38
13	Jharkhand	286.25	0.00***	184.83
14	Karnataka	101.40	399.29	376.56
15	Kerala	14.61	146.22	212.94
16	Ladakh	0.00	0.00*	15.79
17	Madhya Pradesh	268.76	506.38	860.96
18	Maharashtra	225.00	499.38	599.32
19	Manipur	24.85	30.36	27.79
20	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00*	33.97
21	Mizoram	8.30	19.23***	32.66
22	Odisha	554.00	610.52*****	773.39
23	Punjab	79.20	64.73*****	177.85
24	Rajasthan	182.03	267.69	280.98
25	Sikkim	0.00	54.38	66.90
26	Tamil Nadu	7.00	0.00*	66.63
27	Telangana	237.38	510.00	483.78
28	Tripura	16.70	16.74	21.51
29	Uttar Pradesh	150.60	285.68	442.01
30	Uttarakhand	303.00	218.00	353.64
31	West Bengal	21.22	70.07	74.00
	Total	3523.59	5328.7	7906.16

* APO not submitted.

** The Jammu & Kashmir State Authority was notified on 08.01.2020.

*** APO was approved 'in-principle' subject to furnishing additional information, which the State did not provide.

**** APO was approved ex-post facto in 2020-21.

***** Activities' amounting to Rs. 18.00 crore for the APO (2019-20) was approved in the 6th meeting of EC held on 27th and 28th of May, 2020.

