

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 698
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2021

Forest Land

698. SHRI DHARAMBIR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has records of the total land area earmarked for forest land and grazing land across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise including Haryana;
- (c) whether the Government has made assessment regarding encroachment on said land in recent years, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any instructions have been issued to the State Governments to take action against encroachment on such land; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the other steps taken by the Government to remove encroachments on such lands?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2019, the total Recorded Forest Area in the Country is 7,67,419 square kilometre. The State/Union Territory (UT) wise details including Haryana are given in **Annexure-I**. The Ministry does not collect the records of the total land area earmarked for grazing land across the country.

(c), (d) & (e) Protection and management of forests is primarily the responsibility of concerned State/UT. As per the information received from States /UTs, the State/UT wise details of the forest area under encroachment in the country are given in **Annexure-II**. The Ministry does not assess encroachment on grazing land across the country.

Since States and UTs are responsible for forest protection, whenever any complaint regarding encroachment is received, the same is forwarded to the concerned State or UT for taking appropriate actions as per the extant acts, rules and regulations. The States and UTs also take various measures such as demarcation and digitization of forest boundaries, strengthening infrastructure for forest protection, involving fringe area forest communities such as Joint Forest Management Committees, Eco Development Committees etc. to prevent and control encroachments. The Ministry has written to State Governments/UT Administrations to remove encroachment and ensure that no further encroachment takes place as per the existing Acts/rules.

Annexure I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 698 due for answer on 23.07.2021 regarding 'Forest Land'

Recorded Forest Areas in States/UTs as per ISFR-2019

(Area in square kilometre)

S.No.	State/ UT	Geographical Area (GA)	Recorded Forest Areas (RFA)			Total RFA (2019)
			Reserved Forests	Protected Forests	Unclassed Forests	
1	Andhra Pradesh	162,968	31,959	5,069	230	37,258
2	Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	10,589	9,779	31,039	51,407
3	Assam	78,438	17,864	0	8,968	26,832
4	Bihar	94,163	693	6,183	1	6,877
5	Chhattisgarh	135,192	25,782	24,036	9,954	59,772
6	Delhi	1,483	78	24	0	102
7	Goa	3,702	253	0	972	1,225
8	Gujarat	196,244	14,373	2,886	4,388	21,647
9	Haryana	44,212	249	1,158	152	1,559
10	Himachal Pradesh	55,673	1,898	33,130	2,005	37,033
11	Jammu & Kashmir*	222,236	17,643	2,551	36	20,230
12	Jharkhand	79,716	4,387	19,185	33	23,605
13	Karnataka	191,791	28,690	3,931	5,663	38,284
14	Kerala	38,852	11,309	0	0	11,309
15	Madhya Pradesh	308,252	61,886	31,098	1,705	94,689
16	Maharashtra	307,713	49,546	6,733	5,300	61,579
17	Manipur	22,327	1,467	4,171	11,780	17,418
18	Meghalaya	22,429	1,113	12	8,371	9,496
19	Mizoram	21,081	4,483	0	1,158	5,641
20	Nagaland	16,579	234	0	8,389	8,623
21	Odisha	155,707	36,049	25,133	22	61,204
22	Punjab	50,362	44	1,137	1,903	3,084
23	Rajasthan	342,239	12,475	18,217	2,045	32,737
24	Sikkim	7,096	5,452	389	0	5,841
25	Tamil Nadu	130,060	20,293	1,782	802	22,877
26	Telangana	112,077	20,353	5,939	612	26,904
27	Tripura	10,486	4,175	2	2,117	6,294
28	Uttar Pradesh	240,928	12,071	1,157	3,354	16,582
29	Uttarakhand	53,483	26,547	9,885	1,568	38,000
30	West Bengal	88,752	7,054	3,772	1,053	11,879
31	A&N Islands	8,249	5,613	1,558	0	7,171
32	Chandigarh	114	32	0	3	35
33	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	199	5	0	204
34	Daman & Diu	111	0	0	8	8
35	Lakshadweep	30	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry	490	0	2	11	13
	Total	3,287,469	434,853	218,924	113,642	767,419

Source: State/UT Forest Departments

* Includes Jammu & Kashmir area outside LoC that is under illegal occupation of Pakistan and China.

Annexure II

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 698 due for answer on 23.07.2021 regarding 'Forest Land'

State/UT wise details of forest area under encroachment

S. No.	State/UT	Area under Encroachment (in hectares)
1	Andhra Pradesh	34358.33
2	Bihar	132.21
3	Chhattisgarh	7645.84
4	Gujarat	292.83
5	Goa	Nil
6	Haryana	1027.30
7	Himachal Pradesh	6252.00
8	Jharkhand	26496.00
9	Jammu & Kashmir	10279.28
10	Karnataka	83092.06
11	Kerala	5024.53
12	Madhya Pradesh	541731.28
13	Maharashtra	61270.35
14	Odisha	33154.19
15	Punjab	6700.60
16	Rajasthan	10839.76
17	Tamil Nadu	15593.64
18	Telangana	8856.96*
19	Uttar Pradesh	12397.55
20	Uttarakhand	10649.11
21	West Bengal	10214.80
22	Arunachal Pradesh	53450.43
23	Assam	363142.20
24	Manipur	2213.82
25	Meghalaya	9747.19
26	Mizoram	10852.80
27	Nagaland	2638.11
28	Sikkim	2817.21
29	Tripura	6.77
30	A & N Islands	3887.72
31	Chandigarh	14.00
32	D&N Haveli	0.08
33	Daman & Diu	87.83
34	Lakshadweep	Nil
35	Delhi	384.38
36	Puducherry	Nil

* latest information received.

