

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 1241
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 06.12.2021

Denudation of Forests Area

1241. SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI:
PROF. SOUGATA RAY:

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

- (a) the details of actual forest cover against the targets fixed during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) whether large-scale deforestation has taken place in the country and if so, the details of the area where denudation of forests has taken place including the total land area lost due to deforestation during the last five years, State-wise along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check further denudation of forest area in the country;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to launch a new initiative involving local-level institutions and private sector to expand forest cover in the country, especially in the rural areas and if so, the details thereof including the efforts made by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government for the conservation of forests in the country which are decreasing day by day due to deforestation and the total land area lost due to deforestation during the last five years, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The National Forest Policy, 1988 envisages that a minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country should be under forest or tree cover. In the hills and in mountainous region, 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.

The assessment of forest cover and tree cover of the country is carried out biennially by Forest Survey of India and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). ISFR-2019 is the latest report in the series. As per ISFR 2019, 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. State/UT-wise details of Forest and Tree cover as per ISFR-2015, ISFR-2017 and ISFR-2019 are provided at **Annexure-I** which show that overall at the national level Forest and Tree Cover has increased by 13,209 square kilometers between ISFR- 2015 and ISFR-2019.

- (b) No, Sir. During the last five years (i.e. 2016-17 to 2020-21) 82,893.61 hectare forest area has been diverted for non-forestry purposes. The State and Union Territory wise details are given at **Annexure-II**.

- (c) For development purposes, non forestry use of forest land is allowed under the provision of Forest (Conservation) Act, after following due process to minimise diversion of forest area, and felling of trees with mandatory Compensatory Afforestation and required mitigation measures.
- (d) Local people are involved regularly through Joint Forest Management Committee and Eco-Development Committee by State Forest Department for afforestation/rehabilitation of degraded forests and adjoining areas.
- (e) 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 multi-departmental efforts have yielded good results in conserving and developing forest and tree cover as evident from the fact that the Forest and Tree cover as reported in the latest India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2019 has increased by 13,209 sq km as compared to that of ISFR 2015 assessment. The State and Union Territory wise details of forest area diverted for non-forestry purposes are given at **Annexure-II**.

Annexure I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1241 due for answer on 06.12.2021 regarding 'Denudation of Forests Area'

State/UT wise forest cover and tree cover as per ISFR 2015, 2017 and 2019.

States/UTs	Forest Cover and Tree Cover (in square kilometre)		
	ISFR 2015	ISFR 2017	ISFR 2019
Andhra Pradesh	29,971	31,900	33,051
Arunachal Pradesh	67,915	67,771	67,536
Assam	29,151	29,601	29,735
Bihar	9,436	9,562	9,309
Chhattisgarh	59,188	59,380	59,859
Delhi	299.77	305.41	324
Goa	2,535	2552	2,509
Gujarat	22,624	22,781	21,769
Haryana	2,935	3,003	3,167
Himachal Pradesh	15,464	15,922	16,263
Jammu & Kashmir	31,342	31,056	31,556
Jharkhand	26,307	26,475	26,268
Karnataka	42,001	43,263	44,832
Kerala	22,229	23,280	24,080
Madhya Pradesh	85,199	85,487	85,821
Maharashtra	60,257	60,513	61,584
Manipur	17,326	17,566	17,020
Meghalaya	17,972	17,803	17,829
Mizoram	19,252	18,653	18,447
Nagaland	13,320	12,868	12,848
Odisha	54,446	55,338	56,267
Punjab	3,315	3,459	3,441
Rajasthan	24,375	24,838	24,742
Sikkim	3,388	3,379	3,378
Tamil Nadu	30,713	30,952	31,194
Telangana	22,403	23,088	23,096
Tripura	8,123	7,941	7,957
Uttar Pradesh	21,445	22,121	22,148
Uttarakhand	25,024	25,062	25,144
West Bengal	18914	18,983	18,908
A&N Islands	6,788	6,777	6,784
Chandigarh	30.66	31.56	47
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	234	237	235
Daman & Diu	29.61	30.49	25
Lakshadweep	31.06	29.1	27
Puducherry	83.95	80.67	75
Grand Total	794067	802088	8,07,276

Annexure II

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) and (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1241 due for answer on 06.12.2021 regarding ‘Denudation of Forests Area’

Statement Showing State wise area approved (in Ha.) for use of land non-forestry purpose under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980			
Category : All Categories		During the Period : 01/04/2016 to 31/03/2021	
S. No.	STATE / UT	No. of Proposal	Area Approved (in Ha.)
1	Andaman and Nicobar	1	5.26
2	Andhra Pradesh	39	2713.53
3	Arunachal Pradesh	12	5084.48
4	Assam	5	1178.33
5	Bihar	202	1977.14
6	Chandigarh	4	0.43
7	Chhattisgarh	26	1897.15
8	Dadar& Nagar Haveli	34	23.97
9	Goa	11	141.33
10	Gujarat	811	5340.27
11	Haryana	1495	2150.03
12	Himachal Pradesh	282	1732.76
13	Jammu and Kashmir	1	1.20
14	Jharkhand	62	3421.16
15	Karnataka	88	1355.25
16	Kerala	12	9.21
17	Madhya Pradesh	697	19638.41
18	Maharashtra	33	3615.62
19	Manipur	5	1184.12
20	Meghalaya	4	11.40
21	Mizoram	5	64.22
22	Orissa	101	11862.24
23	Punjab	954	1972.49
24	Rajasthan	168	3771.62
25	Sikkim	4	12.90
26	Tamil Nadu	19	81.91
27	Telangana	68	8209.32
28	Tripura	43	665.36
29	Uttar Pradesh	259	1395.99
30	Uttarakhand	466	2909.28
31	West Bengal	17	467.24
Total		5928	82893.61

Source : <https://parivesh.nic.in> (During the Period : 01.04.2016 to 31.03.2021)

