

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 2031
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 14.03.2022

Notified Forest Area

2031. SHRIMATI JYOTSNA CHARANDAS MAHANT:

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

- (a) whether the data of notified forest area in the States including Chhattisgarh is compiled by the Central Government and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) whether any scheme/programme has been made by the Central Government for the development, promotion and protection of medicinal trees/ plants like Mahua, Char, Chironji, Harra in the tribal forests of Chhattisgarh and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any plan has also been made to stop activities like encroachment and illegal mining in forest areas?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The land is notified as Reserve Forests by the concerned State Government under the provision of Indian Forest Act, 1927. The information on Recorded Forest Area including Reserved Forests, Protected Forests and Unclassed Forests as received from States and Union Territories including the State of Chhattisgarh are compiled and presented in India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, which is given at **Annexure**.
- (b) In order to promote medicinal plant sector in the country, Government of India set up the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) on 24th November 2000. Currently the Board is working under the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy), Government of India. The primary mandate of NMPB is to develop an appropriate mechanism for coordination among various ministries/ departments/ organizations, and implementation of support policies/programs for overall (conservation, cultivation, trade and export) growth of medicinal plants sector both at the Central /State and international levels. The National Medicinal Plants Board, Ministry of AYUSH is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on Conservation, Development and Sustainable Management of Medicinal Plants under which it is providing project based financial assistance to State Governments (State Forest Departments & Other agencies etc.) for protection of medicinal plant resources throughout the country. Under the scheme, the in-situ conservation of medicinal plants in their natural habitats is being carried out through development of Medicinal Plants Conservation and Development Areas (MPCDAs).

- (c) Since, the protection and management of forests is primarily the responsibility of concerned State/UT, whenever any complaint regarding encroachment and illegal mining is received, the same is forwarded to the concerned State/ Union Territories for taking appropriate actions as per the extant Acts, Rules and Regulations. The States and Union Territories 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 and Union Territory Administrations to remove encroachment and ensure that no further encroachment takes place as per the existing Acts/Rules.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2031 due for answer on 14.03.2022 regarding 'Notified Forest Area'

Recorded Forest Areas (RFA) in States/UTs as per ISFR-2021

(Area in square kilometre)

Sl. No.	State/ UT		Geographical Area (GA)	RFA (in different categories)			Total RFA (2021)
				Reserved Forest	Protected Forest	Unclassed Forests*	
1.	Andhra Pradesh		1,62,968	31,959	5,069	230	37,258
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		83,743	12,371	11,857	27,312	51,540
3.	Assam		78,438	17,864	0	8,972	26,836
4.	Bihar		94,163	693	6,183	566	7,442
5.	Chhattisgarh		1,35,192	25,897	24,036	9,883	59,816
6.	Delhi		1,483	78	25	0	103
7.	Goa		3,702	119	755	397	1,271
8.	Gujarat		196,244	14,574	2,898	4,398	21,870
9.	Haryana		44,212	249	1,158	152	1,559
10.	Himachal Pradesh		55,673	1,883	28,887	7,178	37,948
11.	Jharkhand		79,716	4,500	18,922	1,696	25,118
12.	Karnataka		191,791	28,690	3,931	5,663	38,284
13.	Kerala		38,852	11,522	0	0	11,522
14.	Madhya Pradesh		3,08,252	61,886	31,098	1,705	94,689
15.	Maharashtra		3,07,713	50,865	6,433	4,654	61,952
16.	Manipur		22,327	984	3,254	13,180	17,418
17.	Meghalaya		22,429	1,113	12	8,371	9,496
18.	Mizoram		21,081	4,499	1,823	1,157	7,479
19.	Nagaland		16,579	234	0	8,389	8,623
20.	Odisha		1,55,707	36,049	25,133	22	61,204
21.	Punjab		50,362	44	1,137	1,903	3,084
22.	Rajasthan		3,42,239	12,176	18,543	2,144	32,863
23.	Sikkim		7,096	5,452	389	0	5,841
24.	Tamil Nadu		1,30,060	20,523	1,053	1,612	23,188
25.	Telangana		1,12,077	25,800	1,592	296	27,688
26.	Tripura		10,486	3,588	2	2,704	6,294
27.	Uttar Pradesh**		2,40,928	11,560	296	5,528	17,384
28.	Uttarakhand		53,483	26,547	9,885	1,568	38,000
29.	West Bengal		88,752	7,054	3,772	1,053	11,879
30.	A & N Islands		8,249	5,613	1,558	0	7,171
31.	Chandigarh		114	32	0	3	35
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu		602	203	5	6	214
33.	Jammu & Kashmir	Shape file Area*** (54,624)	2,22,236	17,648	2,551	0	20,199
34.	Ladakh	Shape file Area*** (1,68,055)		7	0	0	7
35.	Lakshadweep		30	0	0	0	0
36.	Puducherry		490	0	2	11	13
Total			32,87,469	4,42,276	2,12,259	1,20,753	7,75,288

Source: State/UTs Forest Departments

*Unclassed Forest includes all forest other than Reserve Forest and Protected Forest as reported by State/UTs Forest Departments.

**In case of Uttar Pradesh, the RFA excludes 9,662.764 km of linear plantations along Road, Railway line and Canal.

***Area of shape file provided by Survey of India (August, 2021). Notified geographical areas for individual UTs from SOI are awaited.

