

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 2431**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 01.08.2022

**India State of Forest Report**

2431. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

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

- (a) whether as per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, the country has witnessed an increase in forest cover across the country, but a decline in moderate dense forest and also an increase in forest fires and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the States that have witnessed an increased in forest cover and the States which has witnessed a decline in forest cover along with the details thereof and underlying reasons thereof;
- (c) the necessary steps taken/proposed to be taken enhance afforestation activities and check forest fires in the country; and
- (d) the major plans chalked out for resettlement of forest dwellers in the country along with funds earmarked for same, State/UT-wise?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) 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 latest ISFR- 2021, the total forest cover of the country has increased by 1540 square kilometre, tree cover has increased by 721 square kilometre and total forest and tree cover has increased by 2261 square kilometre at the national level as compared to the previous assessment i.e. ISFR 2019. As per ISFR-2021, there is decrease of 1582 square kilometre in Moderately Dense Forest.

Number of forest fire detections by Forest Survey of India using Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectro-Radiometer (MODIS) Sensor and SNPP-VIIRS (Suomi Imager Radiometer Suite) sensor during fire season from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 were 29,675 and 2,23,333 respectively in the fire season November 2021-June 2022 are lesser compared to detection in the previous year. As per the ISFR 2021, the forest fire detection in the fire season November 2020-June 2021 were more compared to the previous fire season i.e. November 2019-June 2020. The State and Union Territory wise number of forest fire detections using MODIS and SNPP-VIIRS sensors during last three years are attached at **Annexure-I**.

- (b) There has been increase in forest cover in some States while there has been decrease in forest cover in some States as per ISFR 2021. The gain in forest cover or improvement in forest canopy density may be attributed to conservation measures, afforestation activities, enhanced protection measures in plantation as well as in traditional forest areas and expansion of trees outside forest whereas, loss in forest cover may be attributed due to developmental activities, harvesting of short rotational plantations and biotic pressure. The details of States and UTs showing increase and decrease in forest cover in comparison to previous assessment (ISFR-2019) are given at **Annexure II**.
- (c) To improve and increase the forest & tree cover in the country, afforestation programmes are taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Ministry such as National Mission for a Green India (GIM). GIM is one of the eight Missions outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. It aims at protecting, restoring and enhancing India's forest cover and responding to Climate Change by undertaking plantation activities in the forest and non-forest areas. The Ministry is implementing Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) since the year 2020 which envisages developing 400 Nagar Vans and 200 Nagar Vatika in the country during the period of 2020-21 to 2024-25 with an objective to significantly enhance the tree outside forests and green cover, enhancement of biodiversity and ecological benefits to the urban and peri-urban areas apart from improving quality of life of city dwellers with the funds under the National Fund of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). The Ministry is also implementing 'School Nursery Yojana' (SNY) since the year 2020 for a period of five years where students of class Sixth, Seventh and Eighth from all public and private schools organized by State Boards/ Central Government Boards all over the country will be actively involved in developing nursery, raising and planting seedlings as part of school curriculum.

Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes/funding sources such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Compensatory Afforestation Funds under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). Afforestation activities are also taken up under various schemes of State Government /UT Administration. In addition, plantations are also done by various departments, Non-Government Organizations, Civil Society, Corporate bodies etc.

The Ministry supports the efforts of the States/ UTs in prevention and control of forest fire by providing financial assistance for various forest fire prevention and management measures such as modern tools for fire extinguishing, use of communication and information technology, etc creation and maintenance of fire lines in forest areas, engagement of fire watchers, creation of water storage structures in forest areas, strengthening of forest infrastructure, procurement of firefighting equipment, soil and moisture conservation works in high risk areas, awareness creation, incentivizing villages/communities for protection against forest fire etc. under the Centrally Sponsored Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme.

In addition, the FSI has taken following steps to improve the forest fire alert system:-

- (i) FSI has pursued with States/UTs to increase the number of registered users of its alert system. Now, the number of such registered users has increased to around 1.55 lakh.
- (ii) FSI also generates and disseminates “Weekly Early-Warning Alerts” of forest fire to concerned States/UTs.
- (iii) FSI has also initiated an innovative “Large Forest Fire Monitoring” programme in January 2019 which aims at improving tactical as well as strategic response to large forest fires by the respective States/UTs.
- (d) There is the provision for settlement of forest dwellers under Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. The eligible individuals’ forest right claims are approved by the District Level Committee under the chairmanship of concerned Collector and District Magistrate. Information related to funds earmarked for this purpose are not collated at the level of the Ministry.

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## Annexure -I

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2431  
due for answer on 01.8.2022 regarding 'India State of Forest Report'**

State/UT-wise number of forest fire detected by Forest Survey of India using MODIS & SNPP-VIIRS sensors in the last three years. (This includes large, continuous and repeated forest fires)

S.No.	State/UT	MODIS Detections			SNPP-VIIRS Detections		
		Nov 2019 to June 2020	Nov 2020 to June 2021	Nov 2021 to June 2022	Nov 2019 to June 2020	Nov 2020 to June 2021	Nov 2021 to June 2022
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	15	2	3	39	16	33
2	Andhra Pradesh	1,080	2,888	1716	9,996	19,328	14,138
3	Arunachal Pradesh	660	1,109	1116	1,786	3,914	3,449
4	Assam	3,000	3,387	2305	8,924	10,718	8,158
5	Bihar	50	537	222	614	5,179	3,024
6	Chandigarh	0	0	0	2	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	416	3,112	1942	6,360	38,106	25,792
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	3	1	21	33	15
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	1	3
10	Delhi	3	5	5	21	14	3
11	Goa	4	10	5	47	45	20
12	Gujarat	202	422	236	2,770	3,803	2,769
13	Haryana	39	25	37	68	152	135
14	Himachal Pradesh	80	533	601	536	4,110	5,280
15	Jammu & Kashmir	62	131	524	438	1,098	4,282
16	Jharkhand	101	1,563	630	2,613	21,713	9,419
17	Karnataka	538	932	800	4,232	5,784	4,973
18	Kerala	142	51	61	864	296	504
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	1,383	7,103	3908	9,537	47,795	32,728
21	Maharashtra	1,102	4,297	2309	14,018	34,025	22,052
22	Manipur	2,475	3,252	1638	8,800	10,457	5,544
23	Meghalaya	1,826	2,052	1431	6,762	7,658	6,322
24	Mizoram	2,816	4,345	2105	7,361	12,846	8,734
25	Nagaland	1,248	1,726	1309	2,905	4,975	3,471
26	Odisha	1,326	5,307	2086	10,602	51,968	22,014
27	Puducherry	1	1	0	0	1	0
28	Punjab	52	171	128	153	635	428
29	Rajasthan	420	447	238	3,461	3,402	2,703
30	Sikkim	5	17	11	47	63	26
31	Tamil Nadu	187	202	151	1,368	1,220	1,035
32	Telangana	1,042	2,566	1372	12,132	18,237	13,737
33	Tripura	1,467	1,664	310	4,369	5,015	2,609
34	Uttar Pradesh	396	1,667	905	1,548	8,608	5,428
35	Uttarakhand	167	2,710	1337	759	21,487	12,985
36	West Bengal	141	548	233	1,320	3,287	1,520
<b>Total</b>		<b>22,447</b>	<b>52,785</b>	<b>29,675</b>	<b>1,24,473</b>	<b>3,45,989</b>	<b>2,23,333</b>

## Annexure -II

## Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2431 due for answer on 01.8.2022 regarding 'India State of Forest Report'

Details of State showing increase in Forest Cover in the States/UTs in India as per ISFR 2021

(Area in Square Kilometre)

States/UTs	Geographical area	Forest Cover ISFR 2021	Change in forest cover w.r.t ISFR 2019
Andhra Pradesh	1,62,968	29,784	647
Bihar	94,163	7,381	75
Chhattisgarh	1,35,192	55,717	106
Goa	3,702	2,244	7
Gujarat	1,96,244	14,926	69
Haryana	44,212	1,603	1
Odisha	1,55,707	52,156	537
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	15,443	9
Jharkhand	79,716	23,721	110
Karnataka	1,91,791	38,730	155
Kerala	38,852	21,253	109
Tamil Nadu	1,30,060	26,419	55
Rajasthan	3,42,239	16,655	25
Madhya Pradesh	3,08,252	77,493	11
Maharashtra	3,07,713	50,798	20
Telangana	1,12,077	21,214	632
Uttar Pradesh	2,40,928	14,818	12
Uttarakhand	53,483	24,305	2
A&N Islands	8,249	6,744	1
Chandigarh	114	22.88	0.85
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	602	227.75	0.10
Jammu & Kashmir	2,22,236	21,387	29
Ladakh		2,272	18
Lakshadweep	30	27.1	0
Puducherry	490	53.3	0.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,84,693</b>	<b>5,25,394</b>	<b>2,632</b>

Details of State showing decrease in Forest Cover in the States/UTs in India as per ISFR 2021

(Area in Square Kilometre)

States/UTs	Geographical area	Forest Cover ISFR 2021	Change in forest cover w.r.t ISFR 2019
Manipur	22,327	16,598	-249
Meghalaya	22,429	17,046	-73
Mizoram	21081	17,820	-186
Nagaland	16,579	12,251	-235
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	66,431	-257
Assam	78,438	28,312	-15
Punjab	50,362	1,847	-2
Sikkim	7,096	3,341	-1
Tripura	10,486	7,722	-4
West Bengal	88,752	16,832	-70
Delhi	1,483	195	-0.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,02,776</b>	<b>1,88,395</b>	<b>-1,092</b>