

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 3518
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 08.08.2022

Decrease in Forest Cover

3518. SHRI KUNWAR DANISH ALI:

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

- (a) Whether there is a continuous decline in forest areas in the country and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) The steps taken/schemes made by the Government regarding forest cover in the country during the last three years and the progress made in the regard; and
- (c) The plan-wise details of the budget allocated to the States during the last three years and the current year?

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. ISFR 2021 is the latest report released by the Ministry on 13th January, 2022. As per the ISFR reports, the change in forest cover w.r.t. previous assessments from ISFR-2015 to ISFR-2021 is given as below:-

(Area in square kilometre)			
S. No.	ISFR	Total Forest Cover	Change in forest cover w.r.t. previous assessment
1	2015	7,01,495	3,597
2	2017	7,08,273	6,778
3	2019	7,12,249	3,976
4	2021	7,13,789	1,540

Hence, the overall increase in forest cover from ISFR-2015 to ISFR-2021 is 12,294 square kilometre.

- (b) & (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. GIM activities were started in the FY 2015-16. So, far a sum of Rs. 375.13 Crores have been released to fifteen States and one union territory during last three years for taking up the advance work regarding creation of plantation over an area of 98260 hectares.

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). During the year 2020-21 an amount of Rs. 1553.65 lakhs has been released and during 2021-22 an amount of Rs. 10875.44 lakh has been released. A total amount of Rs. 12429.09 Lakhs has been released for the creation of 173 Nagar Van projects in 26 States of the country till date. 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. During the year 2020-21 an amount of Rs. 15.20 lakh has been released and during 2021-22 an amount of Rs. 180.39 lakhs has been released. A total amount of Rs. 195.15 lakhs have been released for the creation School Nurseries across 313 schools in 7 States of the country till date.

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.
