

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 983
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024

Forest Cover in the Country

983. SHRI K RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI IMRAN MASOOD:

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

- (a) the details of forest cover in the country during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) whether loss of tree cover increase the emission of carbon dioxide, if so, the details of carbon dioxide emission caused due to tree cover loss in the country during the last five years;
- (c) the justifications for the contradictions between India State of Forest Report 2021 and Global Forest Watch Data; and
- (d) whether the Government plan to amend the Forest Conservation Act (1980) again, given the severe criticism for the recent amendment for removing protections from deemed and community forests?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (d) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest cover biennially. As per the latest India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, the total forest cover of the country is 7,13,789 square kilometer which is 21.71% of the geographical area of the country. The State/UT wise details of forest cover in the country during the last five years are given in **Annexure**.

The forest and tree cover has increased by 7449 square kilometer as per the assessment in ISFR 2021 in comparison to assessment in ISFR 2017. As there is no loss of forest and tree cover, the question of increase in emission of carbon dioxide due to loss of forest & tree cover does not arise.

The contradiction between India State of Forest Report 2021 and Global Forest Watch data may be due to difference in the definition of forest cover and tree cover adopted in these two reports.

The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, was amended through a gazette notification dated 4th August, 2023 and the revised provisions came into effect from 1st December, 2023. The amendments are being implemented to promote the conservation, management and restoration of forests, support ecologically sustainable development, ensure ecological security, preserve cultural and traditional values related to forests and address economic needs while advancing carbon neutrality.

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 983
due for answer on 02.12.2024 regarding 'Forest Cover in the Country'**

State/UT wise details of Forest Cover from ISFR 2017 to ISFR 2021

State/UT	Geographical Area	(Area in square kilometre)		
		ISFR 2017	ISFR 2019	ISFR 2021
Andhra Pradesh	1,62,968	28,147	29,137	29,784
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	66,964	66,688	66,431
Assam	78,438	28,105	28,327	28,312
Bihar	94,163	7,299	7,306	7,381
Chhattisgarh	1,35,192	55,547	55,611	55,717
Delhi	1,483	192.41	195.44	195
Goa	3,702	2,229	2,237	2,244
Gujarat	1,96,244	14,757	14,857	14,926
Haryana	44,212	1,588	1,602	1,603
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	15,100	15,434	15,443
Jharkhand	79,716	23,553	23,611	23,721
Karnataka	1,91,791	37,550	38,575	38,730
Kerala	38,852	20,321	21,144	21,253
Madhya Pradesh	3,08,252	77,414	77,482	77,493
Maharashtra	3,07,713	50,682	50,778	50,798
Manipur	22,327	17,346	16,847	16,598
Meghalaya	22,429	17,146	17,119	17,046
Mizoram	21,081	18,186	18,006	17,820
Nagaland	16,579	12,489	12,486	12,251
Odisha	1,55,707	51,345	51,619	52,156
Punjab	50,362	1,837	1,849	1,847
Rajasthan	3,42,239	16,572	16,630	16,655
Sikkim	7,096	3,344	3,342	3,341
Tamil Nadu	1,30,060	26,281	26,364	26,419
Telangana	1,12,077	20,419	20,582	21,214
Tripura	10,486	7,726	7,726	7,722
Uttar Pradesh	2,40,928	14,679	14,806	14,818
Uttarakhand	53,483	24,295	24,303	24,305
West Bengal	88,752	16,847	16,902	16,832
A & N Islands	8,249	6,742	6,743	6,744
Chandigarh	114	21.56	22.03	22.88
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	602	227.49	227.49	227.75
Jammu & Kashmir **	2,22,236	23,241	21,358	21,287
Ladakh			2,254	2,272
Lakshadweep	30	27.10	27.10	27.10
Puducherry	490	53.67	52.41	53.30
Grand Total	3,287,469	7,08,273	7,12,249	713,789

** From ISFR 2019 onwards Jammu & Kashmir was divided into two UTs viz. Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.