

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO: 329**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.03.2025

**Forest/Green Coverage**

329\*. PROF. SOUGATA RAY:

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

- (a) the area of forest/green coverage of the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps to encourage bamboo like plantations in the reserved forests to ensure availability of enough food and water to avoid wildlife encroachments in the habitat areas nearby the reserve forests;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Forest Survey of India proposes to consider plantations in agriculture lands as forest cover; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

- (a) To (e) The statement is laid on the table of the House.

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**Statement referred to in reply to part (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.329 due for reply on 24.03.2025 regarding 'Forest/Green Coverage' by Prof. Sougata Ray:**

- (a) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, carries out the assessment of forest and tree cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in the 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 the National Forest Inventory.

As per ISFR 2023, the total forest and tree cover of the country is 8,27,356.95 square kilometer which is 25.17 per cent of the geographical area of the country. This includes 7,15,342.61 square kilometer as forest cover and 1,12,014.34 square kilometer as tree cover. The current assessment shows an increase of 1445.81 square kilometer in the forest and tree cover as compared to the last assessment of 2021. This includes 156.41 square kilometer in the forest cover and 1289.40 square kilometer in the tree cover. The State/UT-wise, details of forest and tree cover is given in the **Annexure-I**.

- (b) &(c) The protection, conservation and management of forest and tree resources is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. India is one of the few countries in the world that has a scientific system of forest management. The working plans are the main instrument for the scientific management of Forests in India. The forests in India are managed for a multitude of reasons like maintaining environmental stability, conserving natural heritage, checking soil erosion and denudation of catchment areas, checking the extension of dunes, increasing tree and forest cover with people involvement, increasing the productivity of forests and wildlife conservation, etc. The conservation and development of forest primarily involves strategies like afforestation through natural/artificial regeneration, protection and management. The species for afforestation/plantation under the various schemes are selected based on the ecological conditions and other local factors. The native forest species are encouraged for plantation in the forest areas giving importance to trees with multiple uses. Forest Management Plans includes the prescriptions for the need for wildlife conservation.

In addition, the Ministry provides technical and financial support to the States /UTs for protection, conservation and management of forests in the country. Under centrally sponsored schemes, namely, "Development of Wildlife Habitats" and "Project Tiger and Elephant", funds are provided for conservation and management of protected areas, to address the issue of man-animal conflict, their habitat and corridors, recovery of critically endangered species and its habitats. etc. The activities under the "Development of Wildlife Habitats" also includes protection and management of wildlife habitats like eradication of weeds, development of grass lands and enrichment plantation.

- (d)&(e) According to Decision 19/CP.9 of the Kyoto Protocol, the definition of a forest can vary from one country to another, depending on the country's capacities and capabilities. Accordingly, India has adopted the structural definition of forest which include a 10% threshold for minimum tree canopy cover and a minimum area of 1 hectare with trees in these areas should have the potential to reach a minimum height of 2 metre at maturity in their natural habitat.

Accordingly, as per ISFR, the "Forest cover" refers to all lands, more than or equal to one hectare in area, with a tree canopy of more than or equal to 10%, irrespective of ownership and legal status; and includes orchards, bamboo, and palm. Hence, plantations in agriculture lands as forest cover are included in forest cover if they meet the above mentioned criteria.

**Annexure-I**

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 329  
due for answer on 24.03.2025 regarding 'Forest/Green Coverage' by Prof. Sougata Ray**  
State/UT wise Forest and Tree Cover (As per ISFR 2023)  
(Area in square kilometer)

S.No.	State /UT	Forest Cover	Tree Cover	Forest & Tree Cover
1	Andhra Pradesh	30,084.96	5,340.02	35,424.98
2	Arunachal Pradesh	65,881.57	1,201.63	67,083.20
3	Assam	28,313.55	2,101.46	30,415.01
4	Bihar	7,532.45	2,370.21	9,902.66
5	Chhattisgarh	55,811.75	6,538.70	62,350.45
6	Delhi	195.28	176.03	371.31
7	Goa	2,265.72	257.82	2,523.54
8	Gujarat	15,016.64	6,632.29	21,648.93
9	Haryana	1,614.26	1,693.02	3,307.28
10	Himachal Pradesh	15,580.35	855.07	16,435.42
11	Jharkhand	23,765.78	3,637.55	27,403.33
12	Karnataka	39,254.27	7,779.15	47,033.42
13	Kerala	22,059.36	2,905.94	24,965.30
14	Madhya Pradesh	77,073.44	8,650.14	85,723.58
15	Maharashtra	50,858.53	14,524.88	65,383.41
16	Manipur	16,585.46	209.82	16,795.28
17	Meghalaya	16,966.84	720.56	17,687.40
18	Mizoram	17,990.46	567.80	18,558.26
19	Nagaland	12,222.47	394.02	12,616.49
20	Odisha	52,433.56	6,163.45	58,597.01
21	Punjab	1,846.09	1,475.15	3,321.24
22	Rajasthan	16,548.21	10,841.12	27,389.33
23	Sikkim	3,358.40	48.33	3,406.73
24	Tamil Nadu	26,450.22	5,370.72	31,820.94
25	Telangana	21,179.04	3,517.66	24,696.70
26	Tripura	7,584.77	247.56	7,832.33
27	Uttar Pradesh	15,045.80	8,950.92	23,996.72
28	Uttarakhand	24,303.83	1,231.14	25,534.97
29	West Bengal	16,832.33	2,938.12	19,770.45
30	A & N Islands	6,732.92	26.97	6,759.89
31	Chandigarh	25.00	21.18	46.18
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	225.62	36.83	262.45
33	Jammu & Kashmir	21,346.39	3,666.97	25,013.36
34	Ladakh	2,285.92	893.02	3,178.94
35	Lakshadweep	27.06	0.20	27.26
36	Puducherry	44.31	28.89	73.20
	Total	7,15,342.61	1,12,014.34	8,27,356.95

