

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2477
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2025

Increase in Deforestation

2477. SHRI SANATAN PANDEY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that deforestation has increased due to developmental projects, which has resulted in loss of biodiversity;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that incidents of human-wildlife conflict have increased due to interference in the wildlife habitats; and
- (c) if so, the measures taken by the Government to conserve forests and protect biodiversity along with the assessment of their effectiveness?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c) The proposals for diversion of forest land for various non-forestry purposes including infrastructure are considered as per the provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee or Regional Empowered Committee, constituted under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Rules made thereunder, the Central Government appraise the developmental proposals holistically including their impacts on forests and biodiversity.

Compensatory afforestation and realization of Net Present Value (NPV) are stipulated mandatorily by the Central Government while allowing diversion of forest land to compensate the loss of forest and tree cover. In addition to this, the diversion of forest land is also subject to the implementation of other mitigation measures such as Soil and Moisture Conservation activities, Wildlife Conservation measures, including mitigation of human wildlife conflict, Catchment Area Treatment etc.

As per India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2023, there has been a net increase of 16,630.25 square kilometer in forest cover during last ten years in the country between ISFR 2013 and ISFR 2023. Hence, the forest cover of the country is not only maintained but has shown net increase over the last decade due to implementation of various policies and programs including conservation efforts made by the respective States/UTs.