

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1173
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2025

Steps to increase Forest Cover

1173. SHRI RAJEEV RAI:
SHRI NEERAJ MAURYA:
DR. ANGOMCHA BIMOL AKOIJAM:
SHRI DEVESH SHAKYA:

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

- (a) the details of forest cover in the country, as on date, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has implemented any Scheme to increase the forest cover in the country during the last five years and the current year, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any studies to assess the rate of increase/decrease in forest cover in the country and analysed the reasons therefor, if so, the details of the findings of the said studies;
- (d) the details of the decrease/increase in forest cover during the last five years and the current year, State/UT-wise, including district-wise details of Manipur and Uttar Pradesh;
- (e) the details of the funds released under the National Afforestation Programme during the last five years and the current year, State/UT-wise including district-wise for Uttar Pradesh; and
- (f) the details of the total land reclaimed/recovered as forests under the said Scheme during the last five years and the current year, State/UT-wise including district-wise for Uttar Pradesh?

ANSWER

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

(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 forest and tree cover of the country is 8,27,356.95 square kilometer which is 25.17% of the total geographical area of the country. The State/UT wise details of forest cover and tree cover in the country is given in **Annexure-I**.

(b)&(c) The Ministry provides technical and financial support to States and UTs through various schemes and programmes of the Central Government for enhancement of forest cover including protection, conservation and management of forests in the country. This includes the National Mission for a Green India (GIM), Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme

(FPM), Nagar Van Yojana (NVY), Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) and Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats.

Further, a plantation campaign “एक पेड़ माँ के नाम #Plant4Mother” has also been launched on the occasion of World Environment Day 2024 and in the current year also to undertake plantation activities across the country. This campaign follows the “Whole of Government” and “Whole of Society” approach with participation of all stakeholders for increasing the green cover in the country. The campaign has contributed large scale plantation aiding the enhancement of green cover in the country.

It is a result of the comprehensive action taken regarding protection and conservation of forests as well as afforestation efforts that the forest cover has increased from 7,12,249.00 square kilometer in 2019 to 7,15,342.61 square kilometer in 2023.

As per India State of Forest Report 2023, the positive changes in forest cover arise due to natural growth of vegetation, afforestation initiatives, improved protection of plantations and forest areas, increase in trees outside forests, and regeneration in shifting cultivation areas, while negative changes occur due to harvesting of short-rotation plantations, shifting cultivation, encroachment and natural calamities such as storms, floods and landslides.

(d) The State/UT-wise details of the decrease/increase in forest and tree cover during the last four years between ISFR 2019 and ISFR 2023 including the State of Uttar Pradesh and Manipur is given in **Annexure-I**.

(e)&(f) The Ministry has implemented a Centrally Sponsored Scheme National Afforestation Programme (NAP) since 2000-01. The overall objective of NAP was ecological restoration of degraded forests and to develop the forest resources with people’s participation, with focus on improvement in livelihoods of the forest-fringe communities, especially the poor. At present the scheme (NAP) has been merged with the National Mission for a Green India (GIM) and no new targets have been taken up under NAP. Accordingly, no amount has been released to the States/UTs including State of Uttar Pradesh under the NAP during the last five years and the current year.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply of (a) & (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1173 due for answer on 08.12.2025 regarding 'Steps to increase Forest Cover' asked by Shri Rajeev Rai and others

State-wise/UT wise details of Forest Cover from ISFR 2019 to ISFR 2023

(In square kilometer)

S.N o.	State/UT	Forest Cover (ISFR 2019)	Tree Cover (ISFR 2019)	Forest & Tree Cover (2019)	Forest Cover (ISFR 2023)	Tree Cover (ISFR 2023)	Forest and Tree Cover (2023)	Change in Forest Cover	Change in Forest & Tree Cover
1	Andhra Pradesh	29,137.00	3,914	33,051.00	30,084.96	5,340.02	35,424.98	947.96	2,373.98
2	Arunachal Pradesh	66,688.00	848	67,536.00	65,881.57	1,201.63	67,083.20	- 806.43	- 452.80
3	Assam	28,327.00	1,408	29,735.00	28,313.555	2,101.46	30,415.02	- 13.45	680.01
4	Bihar	7,306.00	2,003	9,309.00	7,532.45	2,370.21	9,902.66	226.45	593.66
5	Chhattisgarh	55,611.00	4,248	59,859.00	55,811.75	6,538.70	62,350.45	200.75	2,491.45
6	Delhi	195.44	129	324.44	195.28	176.03	371.31	- 0.16	46.87
7	Goa	2,237.00	272	2,509.00	2,265.72	257.82	2,523.54	28.72	14.54
8	Gujarat	14,857.00	6,912	21,769.00	15,016.64	6,632.29	21,648.93	159.64	- 120.07
9	Haryana	1,602.00	1,565	3,167.00	1,614.26	1,693.02	3,307.28	12.26	140.28
10	Himachal Pradesh	15,434.00	829	16,263.00	15,580.35	855.07	16,435.42	146.35	172.42
11	Jharkhand	23,611.00	2,657	26,268.00	23,765.78	3,637.55	27,403.33	154.78	1,135.33
12	Karnataka	38,575.00	6,257	44,832.00	39,254.27	7,779.15	47,033.42	679.27	2,201.42
13	Kerala	21,144.00	2,936	24,080.00	22,059.36	2,905.94	24,965.30	915.36	885.30
14	Madhya Pradesh	77,482.00	8,339	85,821.00	77,073.44	8,650.14	85,723.58	- 408.56	-97.42
15	Maharashtra	50,778.00	10,806	61,584.00	50,858.53	14,524.88	65,383.41	80.53	3,799.41
16	Manipur	16,847.00	173	17,020.00	16,585.46	209.82	16,795.28	- 261.54	- 224.72

17	Meghalaya	17,119.00	710	17,829.00	16,966.84	720.56	17,687.40	-152.16	-141.60
18	Mizoram	18,006.00	441	18,447.00	17,990.46	567.80	18,558.26	-15.54	111.26
19	Nagaland	12,486.00	362	12,848.00	12,222.47	394.02	12,616.49	-263.53	-231.51
20	Odisha	51,619.00	4,648	56,267.00	52,433.56	6,163.45	58,597.01	814.56	2,330.01
21	Punjab	1,849.00	1,592	3,441.00	1,846.09	1,475.15	3,321.24	-2.91	-119.76
22	Rajasthan	16,630.00	8,112	24,742.00	16,548.21	10,841.12	27,389.33	-81.79	2,647.33
23	Sikkim	3,342.00	36	3,378.00	3,358.40	48.33	3,406.73	16.40	28.73
24	Tamil Nadu	26,364.00	4,830	31,194.00	26,450.22	5,370.72	31,820.94	86.22	626.94
25	Telangana	20,582.00	2,514	23,096.00	21,179.04	3,517.66	24,696.70	597.04	1,600.70
26	Tripura	7,726.00	231	7,957.00	7,584.77	247.56	7,832.33	-141.23	-124.67
27	Uttar Pradesh	14,806.00	7,342	22,148.00	15,045.80	8,950.92	23,996.72	239.80	1,848.72
28	Uttarakhand	24,303.00	841	25,144.00	24,303.83	1,231.14	25,534.97	0.83	390.97
29	West Bengal	16,902.00	2,006	18,908.00	16,832.33	2,938.12	19,770.45	-69.67	862.45
30	A&N Islands	6,743.00	41	6,784.00	6,732.92	26.97	6,759.89	-10.08	-24.11
31	Chandigarh	22.03	25	47.03	25	21.18	46.18	2.97	-0.85
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	227.49	33	260.49	225.62	36.83	262.45	-1.87	1.96
33	Jammu & Kashmir	21,122.00	7,944	29,066.00	21,346.39	3666.97	25,013.36	224.39	-4,052.64
34	Ladakh	2,490.00	-	2,490.00	2,285.92	893.02	3,178.94	-204.08	688.94
35	Lakshadweep	27.1	0.29	27.39	27.06	0.20	27.26	-0.04	-0.13
36	Puducherry	52.41	23	75.41	44.31	28.89	73.20	-8.10	-2.21

	Grand Total	7,12,24 9.00	95,0 27	8,07,2 76	7,15,34 2.61	1,12,01 4.34	8,27,356.9 6	3,09 3.61	20,080 .20
--	------------------------	-------------------------	--------------------	----------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------