

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 200
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.12.2025

Decline in Forest Area in Hingoli, Maharashtra

200. SHRI AASHTIKAR PATIL NAGESH BAPURAO:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the forest cover in Hingoli district of Maharashtra has been declining continuously during the past few years;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has approved any new schemes for reforestation, afforestation and social forestry in the district; and
- (c) the details of financial assistance sanctioned or proposed for Hingoli under these schemes?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) 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 cover of the Hingoli district of Maharashtra is 111.73 square kilometer which is 2.31% of the total geographical area of the district. The total forest cover of Hingoli district between ISFR 2021 to ISFR 2023 decreased by 1.55 square kilometer.

The protection, conservation and management of forest is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. There are legal frameworks for the protection and management of forests of the country which include, the Indian Forest Act, 1927; the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980; the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and the State Forest Acts and Rules. Further, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issues advisories to State Governments/UT Administrations to protect forest and trees.

In addition, the Ministry provides technical and financial support to the States/UTs for protection, conservation and management of forests in the country. This includes funds from the Central Government under various schemes and programmes such as the National Mission for a Green India (GIM), Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme (FFPM), and Nagar

Van Yojana (NVY). Afforestation is also carried out by the States/UTs under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).

The Ministry does not provide district-specific financial assistance; financial support is released to States/UTs as a whole. In this regard, the Ministry has released an amount of ₹14.25 crore to the State of Maharashtra under the FFPM Scheme during the financial years 2020-21 to 2024-25. Under CAMPA, an amount of ₹3323.92 crore has been approved for Maharashtra during the same period. Further, under GIM, a total of ₹10.30 crore has been released since the financial year 2018-19 for implementing GIM activities over an area of 6766 hectares as per the approved Annual Plans of Operation.

The funds provided under these schemes support the efforts of States and Union Territories to enhance forest and tree cover through ecological restoration measures such as afforestation within and outside forest areas, forest landscape restoration, habitat improvement, soil and water conservation, protection activities, and other related interventions.

A plantation campaign “एक पेड़ माँ के नाम #Plant4Mother” has 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.
