

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO 122
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2026

Forest Cover in Urban Areas

*122. SHRI BALWANT BASWANT WANKHADE:

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

- (a) whether the forest cover in urban areas has been disappearing very fast and it is well below six per cent in some metro cities, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the present status of smart cities which have the target of having maximum green covered area?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (b): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (B) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.122 DUE FOR REPLY ON 09.02.2026 REGARDING 'FOREST COVER IN URBAN AREAS' BY SHRI BALWANT BASWANT WANKHADE:

(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 cover of mega cities namely Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Ahmedabad is 511.81 square kilometer which is 10.26% of the total geographical area of the cities. There is an increase of 2.09 square kilometer of forest cover of the mega cities as compared to the previous assessment reported in ISFR, 2021. The details of forest cover of the mega cities are given in **Annexure**.

As per the India State of Forest Report, the overall forest cover in major urban areas has remained broadly stable during the recent assessment period. The forest cover in major mega cities varies widely depending on factors such as location, policies and environmental priorities. While some cities have significant green spaces and forested areas, others have relatively limited greenery due to urbanization.

(b) The objective of Smart Cities Mission (SCM) is to follow an area-based development approach through retrofitting, redevelopment, greenfield development and a Pan-city through initiative smart solutions to cover larger parts of the city, so as to create a replicable model. The cities under SCM developed based on Smart City Proposals (SCPs) received from States/UTs, across various sectors, viz., smart mobility, Water, Sanitation, Hygiene (WASH), smart governance, smart energy, environment etc., approved by High Powered Steering Committee (HPSC) chaired by the Chief Secretary.

Annexure

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 122
due for answer on 09.02.2026 regarding ‘Forest Cover in Urban Areas’**

Change in Forest Cover in Major Mega Cities**(Area in square kilometer)**

Name of Mega City	Total Forest Cover (ISFR 2021)	Total Forest Cover (ISFR 2023)	Forest Cover Change between ISFR 2021 and ISFR 2023
Ahmedabad	9.41	14.89	5.48
Bengaluru	89.02	89.61	0.59
Chennai	22.70	20.06	-2.64
Delhi	194.23	194.15	-0.08
Hyderabad	81.81	80.20	-1.61
Kolkata	1.77	2.06	0.29
Mumbai	110.78	110.84	0.06
Total	509.72	511.81	2.09