

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1467
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2026

Creating Protected Forest Area in Bihar

1467. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the average forest area of the country is 21 per cent whereas the total forest area of Bihar is 7 per cent and the forest area in the Koshi-Simanchal region of North Bihar is less than 2 per cent;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government is sensitive towards creating large protected forest area/Tiger Reserve/Biosphere Reserve in Purnia, Katihar, Araria, Kishanganj, Saharsa, Supaul, Madhepura districts to balance climate change; and
- (c) if so, the time by which, it is likely to be completed?

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).

As per ISFR-2023, the Recorded Forest Area of the country is 775377 square kilometer, which is 23.59% of the geographical area of the country. The Recorded Forest Area of the State of Bihar is 7442 square kilometer, which is 7.90% of the geographical area of the State of Bihar. The district-wise details of Recorded Forest Area are not published in ISFR-2023.

The creation of Protected Areas/National Parks/Wildlife Sanctuaries/Tiger Reserves are initiated by the concerned State Government as per statutory provisions under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, based on ecological suitability, availability of forest land, and other relevant considerations.
