

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1432
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2015

Forest Areas

1432. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:

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

- (a) the salient features of the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) as well as the National Mission for a Green India;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that forest areas in the country are diminishing due to encroachment and human activities and if so, the estimated loss of forest areas in the country, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to undertake the NAP programme in collaboration with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for generating rural employment opportunities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to have a digital mapping of forest areas/cover of the country and physical numbering/markings of trees where encroachment and deforestation usually takes place and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) the estimated expenditure for the Green India Mission annually along with the funds allocated for each State/UT and projected reduction/neutralisation of Green House Gases (GHGs) through forestation across the country; and
- (g) the other steps taken by the Government to increase the forest areas/cover in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) The Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is implementing two major Centrally Sponsored Schemes(CSSs) on afforestation, namely National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme and the Green India Mission (GIM) which are implemented in participatory mode under Joint Forest Management (JFM) approach. Under NAP, an area of over 2 million hectares has been sanctioned for afforestation since its inception in the year 2000. GIM aims to increase forest & tree cover on 5 million hectare area and to improve eco-system services & also quality of forest cover on another 5 million hectare area by the end of 13th Plan period.

(b) The Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun assesses the forest cover of the country at the interval of two years. As per India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2013, there is a net increase of 5871 sq km. in the forest cover as compared to the previous assessment of 2011, which can be attributed to afforestation, conservation measures, management interventions etc. The State-wise details of forest cover are given in **Annexure-I**.

(c) & (d) NAP and GIM have implementation linkages with MGNREGS at the district level. Under MGNREGS also, afforestation in degraded forest lands in the States is undertaken. As per the information available, about 45,000 hectares of such afforestation has been taken up during the last three years which has also contributed in generating rural wage employment for the local people.

(e) The MoEF&CC is alive to the significance of digital mapping of forest areas in controlling encroachments & illicit tree cutting and has taken up this issue with the State Forest Departments to complete the exercise on priority. 13 major States have completed digitization of forest boundaries and provided the data to FSI, Dehradun for forest cover mapping.

(f) GIM envisages an annual additional carbon dioxide sequestration to the tune of 55 to 60 million tonnes upto 2020. The State-wise details for release of funds are given at **Annexure-II**.

(g) Afforestation being a cross-sectoral programme, is also taken up under various other Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) such as Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), National Bamboo Mission, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) etc. and also under different plan/non-plan schemes of the States.

Annexure I

Annexure referred to in reply of part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1432 regarding “ Forest areas ” raised by Shri Prahlad Singh Patel due for reply on 08.12.2015.

Forest cover in States/UTs in India as per ISFR,2013

(Area in sq km)

States/UTs	Total Forest Cover as per ISFR 2013	Change in Forest Cover wrt ISFR 2011
(1)	(6)	(8)
Andhra Pradesh	46116	-273
Arunachal Pradesh	67321	-89
Assam	27671	-2
Bihar	7291	446
Chhattisgarh	55621	-53
Delhi	179.81	3.61
Goa	2219	0
Gujarat	14653	34
Haryana	1586	-22
Himachal Pradesh	14683	4
Jammu & Kashmir	22538	-1
Jharkhand	23473	496
Karnataka	36132	-62
Kerala	17922	622
Madhya Pradesh	77522	-178
Maharashtra	50632	-14
Manipur	16990	-100
Meghalaya	17288	13
Mizoram	19054	-63
Nagaland	13044	-274
Odisha	50347	1444
Punjab	1772	8
Rajasthan	16086	-1
Sikkim	3358	-1
Tamil Nadu	23844	219
Tripura	7866	-111
Uttar Pradesh	14349	11
Uttarakhand	24508	12
West Bengal	16805	3810
A&N Islands	6711	-13
Chandigarh	17.26	0.26
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	213	2
Daman & Diu	9.27	3.27
Lakshadweep	27.06	0.06
Puducherry	50.06	0.06
Grand Total	697898	5871

Annexure II

Annexure referred to in reply of part (f) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1432 regarding “ Forest area ” raised by Shri Prahlad Singh Patel due for reply on 08.12.2015.

Statement showing State wise release of fund under GIM.

(Rs. In lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/ UT	Amount Released			
		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Total Amount
1	Andhra Pradesh	89.53	Nil	0	89.53
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0		127.2	127.2
3	Assam	130		0	130
4	Bihar	0		224.85	224.85
5	Chhattisgarh	972		0	972
6	Gujarat	133.8		0	133.8
7	Haryana	357		0	357
8	Himachal Pradesh	126.5		0	126.5
9	Jammu and Kashmir	64		0	64
10	Jharkhand	147		0	147
11	Karnataka	267.45		0	267.45
12	Kerala	194.6		0	194.6
13	Madhya Pradesh	823.5		0	823.5
14	Maharashtra	405.77		0	405.77
15	Manipur	40.5		0	40.5
16	Meghalaya	0		89.7	89.7
17	Mizoram	0		223.65	223.65
18	Nagaland	141.5		0	141.5
19	Orissa	107.5		0	107.5
20	Punjab	125.5		0	125.5
21	Rajasthan	275.25		0	275.25
22	Sikkim	0		299.55	299.55
23	Tamil Nadu	72.15		0	72.15
24	Tripura	350.5		0	350.5
25	Uttarakhand	51		0	51
26	Uttar Pradesh	119.5		0	119.5
27	West Bengal	0		300.75	300.75
Total		4994.55	0	1265.70	6260.25
