

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1530**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2015

**National Forest Policy**

1530. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:  
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:  
SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN:

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

- (a) whether the National Forest Policy (NFP) envisages one third of the total land of the country under forest or tree cover as a national goal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the total land under forest or tree cover in the country, as on date, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has received representations/suggestions from various quarters including environmental activists over the fast depleting forest cover in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent depleting forest area and effective implementation of the NFP across the country?

**ANSWER**

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

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

- (a) &(b) The National Forest Policy, 1988 aims to have a minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. As per the India State of Forest Report, 2013, the country's forest and tree cover is 24.01% of geographical area. The State-wise details of forest and tree cover are given in Annexure I and II respectively.
- (c) &(d) The forest and tree cover of the country has shown an overall increase of 6,293.00 sq. km. in forest and tree cover compared to the previous assessment as per the India State of Forest Report, 2011. Some States have shown increase in forest and tree cover, while some have shown decline. Further, the protection and management of forest areas is primarily the responsibility of concerned State/ UT Government. Therefore the representations/ suggestions received in this regard are sent to concerned state/ UT Governments for appropriate action.

- (e) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is supporting the State/UT Governments in implementing the programmes of afforestation, forest conservation and protection to achieve this goal. Afforestation in the country is taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), National Bamboo Mission (NBM), Green India Mission and different State Plan/ Non- Plan Schemes including externally aided projects and under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). National Afforestation Programme (NAP) of the Ministry is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Afforestation and tree plantation and eco-restoration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country. The Scheme is being implemented through a decentralized mechanism of State Forest Development Agency (SFDA) at State level, Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at Village levels. To supplement the efforts of State/ UT Governments towards protection of forests, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensification of Forest Management Scheme, financial assistance is provided to States and Union Territories.

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## Annexure-I

Statement referred to in reply to the part (b) to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1530 due for answer on 08.12.2015 asked by SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE, SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB and SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN regarding National Forest Policy

**State and UTs wise total forest cover as per India State of Forest Report 2013**

(Area in square kilometer)

States/UTs	Geographical Area	Total Forest Cover 2013	Total Forest Cover 2011	Change in Forest Cover
Andhra Pradesh	275069	46116	46389	-273
Arunachal Pradesh	83743	67321	67410	-89
Assam	78438	27671	27673	-2
Bihar	94163	7291	6845	446
Chhattisgarh	135191	55621	55674	-53
Delhi	1483	179.81	176.2	3.61
Goa	3702	2219	2219	0
Gujarat	196022	14653	14619	34
Haryana	44212	1586	1608	-22
Himachal Pradesh	55673	14683	14679	4
Jammu & Kashmir	222236	22538	22539	-1
Jharkhand	79714	23473	22977	496
Karnataka	191791	36132	36194	-62
Kerala	38863	17922	17300	622
Madhya Pradesh	308245	77522	77700	-178
Maharashtra	307713	50632	50646	-14
Manipur	22327	16990	17090	-100
Meghalaya	22429	17288	17275	13
Mizoram	21081	19054	19117	-63
Nagaland	16579	13044	13318	-274
Odisha	155707	50347	48903	1444
Punjab	50362	1772	1764	8
Rajasthan	342239	16086	16087	-1
Sikkim	7096	3358	3359	-1
Tamil Nadu	130058	23844	23625	219
Tripura	10486	7866	7977	-111
Uttar Pradesh	240928	14349	14338	11
Uttarakhand	53483	24508	24496	12
West Bengal	88752	16805	12995	3810
Andaman & Nicobar	8249	6711	6724	-13
Chandigarh	114	17.26	17	0.26
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	213	211	2
Daman & Diu	112	9.27	6.15	3.12
Lakshadweep	32	27.06	27.06	0
Puducherry	480	50.06	50.06	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3287263</b>	<b>697898</b>	<b>692027</b>	<b>5871</b>

**Annexure II**

**Statement referred to in reply to the part (b) to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1530 due for answer on 08.12.2015 asked by SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE, SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB and SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN regarding National Forest Policy**

**State and UTs wise total tree cover as per India State of Forest Report 2013**

<b>States/UTs</b>	<b>Geographical Area</b>	<b>Total Tree Cover 2013</b>	<b>Total Tree Cover 2011</b>	<b>Change in Tree Cover</b>
Andhra Pradesh	275069	7187	7152	35
Arunachal Pradesh	83743	660	549	11
Assam	78438	1582	1564	18
Bihar	94163	2164	2369	-305
Chhattisgarh	135191	3463	3866	-403
Delhi	1483	118	120	-2
Goa	3702	334	286	48
Gujarat	196022	8358	7837	521
Haryana	44212	1282	1395	-113
Himachal Pradesh	55673	697	623	74
Jammu & Kashmir	222236	7664	6550	1114
Jharkhand	79714	2629	2914	15
Karnataka	191791	5920	5733	187
Kerala	38863	3146	2755	391
Madhya Pradesh	308245	7087	7090	-3
Maharashtra	307713	9142	9079	63
Manipur	22327	224	193	31
Meghalaya	22429	668	578	90
Mizoram	21081	223	190	43
Nagaland	16579	372	322	50
Odisha	155707	4013	4301	-288
Punjab	50362	1499	1699	-200
Rajasthan	342239	7860	8272	-412
Sikkim	7096	31	25	6
Tamil Nadu	130058	4866	4718	148
Tripura	10486	213	184	29
Uttar Pradesh	240928	6895	7382	-487
Uttarakhand	53483	703	642	61
West Bengal	88752	2144	2335	-191
Andaman & Nicobar	8249	41	39	2
Chandigarh	114	10	10	0
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	29	29	0
Daman & Diu	112	9	9	0
Lakshadweep	32	5	5	0
Puducherry	480	29	31	-2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3287263</b>	<b>91,266</b>	<b>90,844</b>	<b>422</b>

(Area in square kilometre)

