

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1771
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.03.2016

Forest Cover

1771. SHRI RAVINDER KUSHAWAHA: SHRIMATI RITA TARAI: SHRI BALABHADRA MAJHI: SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO: SHRI RAM CHARAN BOHRA: SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH: SHRI P. KUMAR:

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

- (a) the details of forest cover/area in the country as on date, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the forest cover/area has declined in various parts of the country and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, percentage and State-wise;
- (c) whether any legal provision exists to check deforestation and large scale felling of trees and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has involved the private sector in afforestation projects and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the funds allocated, sanctioned and utilized for protection and conservation of forests during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (f) the progress made so far in preparing comprehensive mapping of forest cover/area in the country; and
- (g) the details of the steps taken to increase the forest cover during the current five year plan along with the achievements made so far in this regard?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun is carrying out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report. The latest report in the series is India State of Forest Report 2015. As per this report, the total forest cover of the country is 7,01,673 square kilometers which is 21.34% of the total geographical area of the country. There is a net increase of 3775 square kilometers in the forest cover of the country as compared with India State of Forest Report-2013. The detailed list showing forest cover and change in forest cover States/UTs wise is given in **Annexure I**. The reasons for decline in the forest cover State/UTs wise is given in **Annexure II**.
- (c) Legal Provisions for protection of forests against illicit felling, deforestation etc, are contained in Indian Forest Act, 1927, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Environment Protection Act, 1986 and the rules, guidelines thereof. In addition, the respective States also have their own Acts/Rules.
- (d) The proposal to involve private/public sector in afforestation of degraded forest areas is under active consideration with a view to improving the forest condition and decrease import of wood and wood products.

- (e) The Ministry provides Grants-in-aid to the States/ Union Territories Governments for protection and management of forests under Intensification of Forest Management Scheme (IFMS). The aim of the scheme is to supplement the efforts of the States and Union Territories towards protection and management of forests. The Funds under the scheme are utilized for purchase of vehicles for patrolling of the forests, establishment of camps, watch towers for detection and monitoring of forest fires, creation and maintenance of fire lines, survey and demarcation of forest areas and strengthening forest infrastructure etc. The details of funds released and utilized under Intensification of Forest Management Scheme (IFMS) for the last three years are given in **Annexure-III**.
- (f) Forest Survey of India has been assessing the forest cover of country biennially since 1987. So far 14 such assessments of forest cover in the country has been carried out and the findings have been published in the State of Forest Report. Work for the 15th assessment is in progress.
- (g) To increase forest cover in the country, afforestation Programme is taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP), Green India Mission (GIM), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) which from 2015-16 has been amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component of the “Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)”. National Bamboo Mission (NBM) and under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), different State Plan/ Non- Plan Schemes including Externally Aided Projects. National Afforestation Programme (NAP) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for afforestation and tree plantation and eco-restoration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country. Since inception of this programme an amount of Rs. 3545 crore has been invested to treat an area of 20.99 lakh hectare till 2014-15. The State-wise details of fund released under National Afforestation Programme during last three years and current year are given in **Annexure IV**.

Funds sanctioned under the Green India Mission (including preparatory phase) State-wise are given in **Annexure-V**. In Financial Year 2012-2013 and 2014-15, no funds were released to State/UT.

Annexure I

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1771
due for answer on 08.03.2016 regarding 'Forest cover'**

Change in Forest Cover in States/UTs as per India State of Forest Report (ISFR)- 2015

(Area in square Kilometers)

States/UTs	Geographical Area	Total Forest Cover 2015	Total Forest Cover 2013	Change in Forest Cover	Change Percent
Andhra Pradesh	1,60,204	24,424	24,357	67	0.27
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	67,248	67321	-73	-0.11
Assam	78,438	27,623	27671	-48	-0.17
Bihar	94,163	7,288	7291	-3	-0.04
Chhattisgarh	1,35,191	55,586	55621	-35	-0.06
Delhi	1,483	189	180	9	4.75
Goa	3,702	2,224	2219	5	0.22
Gujarat	1,96,022	14,660	14653	7	0.05
Haryana	44,212	1,584	1586	-2	-0.13
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	14,696	14683	13	0.09
Jammu & Kashmir	2,22,236	22,988	22538	450	1.96
Jharkhand	79,714	23,478	23473	5	0.02
Karnataka	1,91,791	36,421	36132	289	0.79
Kerala	38,863	19,239	17922	1317	6.85
Madhya Pradesh	3,08,245	77,462	77522	-60	-0.08
Maharashtra	3,07,713	50,628	50632	-4	-0.01
Manipur	22,327	16,994	16990	4	0.02
Meghalaya	22,429	17,217	17288	-71	-0.41
Mizoram	21,081	18,748	19054	-306	-1.63
Nagaland	16,579	12,966	13044	-78	-0.60
Odisha	1,55,707	50,354	50347	7	0.01
Punjab	50,362	1,771	1772	-1	-0.06
Rajasthan	3,42,239	16,171	16086	85	0.53
Sikkim	7,096	3,357	3358	-1	-0.03
Tamil Nadu	1,30,058	26,345	23844	2501	9.49
Telangana	114,865	21,591	21759	-168	-0.78
Tripura	10,486	7,811	7866	-55	-0.70
Uttar Pradesh	2,40,928	14,461	14349	112	0.77
Uttarakhand	53,483	24,240	24508	-268	-1.11
West Bengal	88,752	16,828	16805	23	0.14
A&N Islands	8,249	6,751	6711	40	0.59
Chandigarh	114	22,.03	17.26	4.77	21.65
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	206	213	-7	-3.40
Daman & Diu	112	19.61	9	10.61	52.73
Lakshadweep	32	27.06	27.06	0	0.00
Puducherry	480	55.38	50.06	5.32	9.61
Grand Total	32,87,263	701,673	697898	3775	0.54

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1771
due for answer on 08.03.2016 regarding 'Forest cover'**

States showing decline in forest cover and reasons for decline

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Change (km²)	Reasons for decline
1	Mizoram	-306	Shifting cultivation and other Biotic pressure
2	Uttarakhand	-268	Rotational felling and diversion of forest lands for developmental activities
3	Telangana	-168	Shifting cultivation and other Biotic pressure
4	Nagaland	-78	Shifting cultivation and other Biotic pressure
5	Arunachal Pradesh	-73	Shifting cultivation and diversion of forest lands for development activities
6	Meghalaya	-71	Shifting cultivation and other Biotic pressure
7	Madhya Pradesh	-60	Rotational felling, submergence of forest cover encroachment etc
8	Tripura	-55	Shifting cultivation and encroachment on forest lands
9	Assam	-48	Rotational felling, Shifting cultivation, Biotic pressure etc.
10	Chhattisgarh	-35	Rotational felling, diversion of forest land for other activities etc
11	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-7	Heavy biotic pressure
12	Maharashtra	-4	Rotational felling, diversion of forest land, encroachment etc.
	Others (4)	-7	
	Total	-1180	

Annexure referred to in reply to part (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1771 due for answer on 08.03.2016 regarding 'Forest cover'

Details of fund released and utilized for the year 2012-13 to 2015-16 under Intensification of Forest Management Scheme

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	States	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
		Amount released	Utilized amount	Amount released	Utilized amount	Amount released	Utilized amount	Amount released (As on 04.03.2016)	Utilized amount
Other States									
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	Nil	38.21	0	0.00	0	0.00	Utilization figures will be available only after the completion of financial year.
2	Bihar	0.00	11.55	43.32	47.74	0.00	0	59.09	
3	Chhattisgarh	398.03	347.99	253.25	380.08	411.96	422.21	120.75	
4	Gujarat	243.10	243.1	345.76	345.76	349.71	312.57	179.99	
5	Goa	7.51	11.72	61.17	32.2	0.00	0	0.00	
6	Haryana	95.67	102.85	153.64	153.64	149.56	149.56	77.86	
7	Himachal Pradesh	226.12	303.9	364.41	364.4	365.90	357.82	302.16	
8	Jammu & Kashmir	209.86	183.39	105.24	101.67	0.00	0	193.93	
9	Jharkhand	212.50	174.526	254.88	386	303.03	234.89	83.62	
10	Karnataka	361.09	380.447	324.47	341.47	266.54	266.54	228.19	
11	Kerala	150.68	203.936	254.76	223.41	183.76	191.96	86.00	
12	Madhya Pradesh	886.87	888.3	744.16	740.3	701.07	704.93	420.00	
13	Maharashtra	269.42	269.42	95.96	95.96	228.02	228.02	298.22	
14	Orissa	149.79	149.79	203.25	203.25	220.50	220.5	136.00	
15	Punjab	0.00	66.85		0	0.00	0	77.00	
16	Rajasthan	237.27	225.93	145.02	156.2	205.09	190.58	112.54	
17	Tamil Nadu	141.00	174.65		0	0.00	0	203.02	
18	Telangana	-	-	-		160.73	64.173	0.00	
19	Uttar Pradesh	131.38	146.8	138.29	169.74	218.36	218.13	156.15	
20	Uttarakhand	342.62	336.71	299.33	307.29	332.57	302.87	356.83	
21	West Bengal	71.09	78.62		0	115.46	29.76268	0.00	
	Total	4134.00	4300.48	3825.12	4049.11	4212.26	3894.51	3091.35	

		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
S. No.	States	Amount released	Utilized amount	Amount released	Utilized amount	Amount released	Utilized amount	Amount released	Utilized amount
NE & Sikkim									
1	Assam	0.00			0.00	0	0.00	0	
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	303.27		0.00	219.59	232.39	85.07	
3	Manipur	117.51	250.74	294.86	294.86	0	0.00	240.76	
4	Meghalaya	144.64	164.78	244.83	244.83	0	0.00	180.26	
5	Mizoram	292.00	315.58	284.74	363.63	256.27	256.27	153.17	
6	Nagaland	0.00	0	145.92	145.92	225.13	225.13	122.6	
7	Sikkim	35.28	98.15	166.5	168.98	162.17	0	150	
8	Tripura	376.90	332.4	131.8	184.81	243.84	238.63	147.19	
	Total	966.33	1464.92	1268.65	1403.03	1107.00	952.42	1079.05	
Union Territories									
1	A & N Islands	5.49	0	13.04	6.51		0.00	28.00	
2	Chandigarh	0.00					0.00	37.00	
3	D&N Haveli	0.00					0.00	0.00	
4	Daman & Diu	0.00	0				0.00	0.00	
5	Lakshadweep	0.00					0.00	0.00	
6	New Delhi	0.00					0.00	0.00	
7	Pondicherry	0.00				37.77	0.00	0.00	
	Total	5.49	0	13.04	6.51	37.77	0.00	65.00	
	Grand Total	5105.82	5765.40	5106.81	5458.65	5357.03	4846.93	4235.40	

Utilization figures will be available only after the completion of financial year.

Note: The utilized amount in the above table includes the unspent funds carried forward from previous year.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (g) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1771 due for answer on 08.03.2016 regarding 'Forest cover'

Details of funds released during last three years and current year under National Afforestation Programme Scheme

(Rs. in Crore)

S. No.	States	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 Till 31.12.2015
1	Andhra Pradesh	2.71	3.75	4.56	0.87
2	Bihar	3.40	12.84	7.00	2.09
3	Chhattisgarh	13.33	21.38	20.00	4.19
4	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5	Gujarat	14.30	11.68	10.50	6.99
6	Haryana	6.41	17.94	11.00	0.72
7	Himachal Pradesh	3.62	2.61	0.73	
8	Jammu & Kashmir	3.37	8.11	3.59	
9	Jharkhand	4.69	9.02	8.60	
10	Karnataka	6.81	9.26	21.35	1.05
11	Kerala	11.30	6.99	2.82	1.02
12	Madhya Pradesh	9.15	22.10	21.00	3.55
13	Maharashtra	28.87	32.33	35.00	9.34
14	Odisha	3.38	5.36	17.92	9.49
15	Punjab	0.76	2.00	1.87	
16	Rajasthan	4.14	2.81	3.35	
17	Tamil Nadu	2.78	3.21	4.25	1.42
18	Telangana	0.00	0.00	2.03	
19	Uttar Pradesh	15.27	20.15	12.00	1.58
20	Uttarakhand	6.25	6.01	2.50	3.05
21	West Bengal	2.57	2.96	0.78	
	Total (Other States)	143.11	200.49	190.85	45.35
22	Arunachal Pradesh	1.66	0.00	0.15	
23	Assam	1.47	2.99	0.00	2.56
24	Manipur	9.46	12.12	8.00	3.67
25	Meghalaya	9.10	4.50	3.61	
26	Mizoram	8.78	11.94	15.00	10.17
27	Nagaland	10.88	9.82	11.00	
28	Sikkim	5.42	3.77	6.00	1.52
29	Tripura	3.50	11.99	9.17	5.73
	Total (NE States)	50.26	57.13	52.93	23.65
	G. Total	193.37	257.62	243.78	69.00

Annexure-V

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (g) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1771
due for answer on 08.03.2016 regarding 'Forest cover'**

**Details of funds released to the State Governments for preparatory activities under Green India
Mission.**

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	Financial Year 2011- 12	Financial Year 2012-13	Financial Year 2013- 14	Financial Year 2014- 15	Financial Year 2015- 16
1.	Andhra Pradesh	89.53	-	0	-	
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	-	127.00	-	
3	Assam	130.00	-	0	-	
4	Bihar	0	-	224.85	-	
5	Chhattisgarh	972.00	-	0	-	2338.55
6	Gujarat	133.80	-	0	-	
7	Haryana	357.00	-	0	-	
8	Himachal Pradesh	126.50	-	0	-	
9	Jammu & Kashmir	64.00	-	0	-	
10	Jharkhand	147.00	-	0	-	
11	Karnataka	267.45	-	0	-	105.53
12	Kerala	194.60	-	0	-	
13	Madhya Pradesh	823.50	-	0	-	
14	Maharashtra	405.77	-	0	-	
15	Manipur	40.50	-	0	-	834.84
16	Meghalaya	0	-	89.70	-	
17	Mizoram	0	-	223.65	-	
18	Nagaland	141.50	-	0	-	
19	Odisha	107.50	-	0	-	182.92
20	Punjab	125.50	-	0	-	611.53
21	Rajasthan	275.25	-	0	-	
22	Sikkim	0	-	299.55	-	
23	Tamil Nadu	72.15	-	0	-	
24	Tripura	350.50	-	0	-	
25	Uttar Pradesh	119.50	-	0	-	
26	Uttarakhand	51.00	-	0	-	2020.9
27	West Bengal	0	-	300.75	-	
	TOTAL	4994.55	-	1265.50	-	6094.27

