

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1818**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.03.2016

**Shrinking Green Areas**

1818. SHRI DILIP PATEL:

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

- (a) whether the ambit of green area has been shrinking due to increase in urbanization and construction of residential and commercial buildings and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any current policy in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the progress made so far to save trees and green area from rapid decline due to increase of urbanization and construction work ?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) 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 details showing forest cover and change in forest cover in States/UTs wise is given in **Annexure**.
- (b) & (c) The National Forest Policy, 1988 (NFP) aims to have a minimum of one third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. The management and protection of forest area is primarily the responsibility of concerned State/UT Governments. Action against forest offences is taken under various acts such as the Indian Forest Act, 1927, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and respective State Acts/Rules.

As per the Land use Classification in Urban and Regional Development Plans Formulation and Implementations (URDPFI) Guidelines, 2014, forests are normally covered under "Recreational" use. For prescribing norms, forests are classified under "Open Spaces" whereas Parks/Playgrounds are classified as "Organized Green". In order to conserve and protect the forests in and around the cities and towns, the State Governments need to adhere to the Norms prescribed in the URDPFI Guidelines, 2014. Further, 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.

The Ministry also provides Grants-in-aid to State Governments to supplement the efforts of the States for forest management and protection. Funds are being provided under Intensification Forest Management Scheme (IFMS). These funds are utilized for patrolling of the forests, establishment of camps, building fire watch towers, creation and maintenance of fire lines, forest fire control, survey and demarcation of forest areas and strengthening forest infrastructure.

\*\*\*\*\*

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1818 due for answer on 08.03.2016 regarding 'Shrinking Green Areas'

Change in Forest Cover in States/UTs in India 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
Andhra Pradesh	1,60,204	24,424	24,357	67
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	67,248	67321	-73
Assam	78,438	27,623	27671	-48
Bihar	94,163	7,288	7291	-3
Chhattisgarh	1,35,191	55,586	55621	-35
Delhi	1,483	189	180	9
Goa	3,702	2,224	2219	5
Gujarat	1,96,022	14,660	14653	7
Haryana	44,212	1,584	1586	-2
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	14,696	14683	13
Jammu & Kashmir	2,22,236	22,988	22538	450
Jharkhand	79,714	23,478	23473	5
Karnataka	1,91,791	36,421	36132	289
Kerala	38,863	19,239	17922	1317
Madhya Pradesh	3,08,245	77,462	77522	-60
Maharashtra	3,07,713	50,628	50632	-4
Manipur	22,327	16,994	16990	4
Meghalaya	22,429	17,217	17288	-71
Mizoram	21,081	18,748	19054	-306
Nagaland	16,579	12,966	13044	-78
Odisha	1,55,707	50,354	50347	7
Punjab	50,362	1,771	1772	-1
Rajasthan	3,42,239	16,171	16086	85
Sikkim	7,096	3,357	3358	-1
Tamil Nadu	1,30,058	26,345	23844	2501
Telangana	114,865	21,591	21759	-168
Tripura	10,486	7,811	7866	-55
Uttar Pradesh	2,40,928	14,461	14349	112
Uttarakhand	53,483	24,240	24508	-268
West Bengal	88,752	16,828	16805	23
A&N Islands	8,249	6,751	6711	40
Chandigarh	114	22,.03	17.26	4.77
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	206	213	-7
Daman & Diu	112	19.61	9	10.61
Lakshadweep	32	27.06	27.06	0
Puducherry	480	55.38	50.06	5.32
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>32,87,263</b>	<b>701,673</b>	<b>697,898</b>	<b>3775</b>