

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3808**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2016

**Report on Forest Cover**

3808. SHRI KESINENI NANI:

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

- (a) whether there has been an increase in forest cover in the country, as per the latest India State of Forests Report and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the mangrove cover has also increased in the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the area under 'very dense forests' and 'mid-dense forests' has decreased and if so, the details and reasons therefor;
- (d) the names of the States with highest loss of forest cover and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken to increase the forest cover during the last two years alongwith the future plan of the Government to raise the forest cover to 33% of the total geographical land area of the country?

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)**

- (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 detailed list showing forest cover and change in forest cover States/UTs wise is given in **Annexure I.**
- (b) There has been a net increase of 112 square kilometer in the mangrove cover of the country compared to India State of Forest Report 2013. The details are given in **Annexure II.**

- (c) As per India State of Forest Report 2015, there has been an increase of 2402 square kilometer in very dense forest cover and a loss of 3371 square kilometer in the moderately dense forest cover.
- (d) The details of States showing decline in forest cover and reasons therefore are given in **Annexure-III**.
- (e) 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)” 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. The scheme is being implemented through a decentralized mechanism of State Forest Development agency (SFDA) at State Level Development agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at Village level. An amount of Rs. 365.93 crore has been released to the States to treat an area of around 1.12 lakh hectare during last two years and current year (2014-15 to 2016-17).

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**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3808  
due for answer on 09.08.2016 regarding 'Report on 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
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>32,87,263</b>	<b>701,673</b>	<b>697898</b>	<b>3775</b>	<b>0.54</b>

**Annexure II**

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3808  
due for answer on 09.08.2016 regarding 'Report on Forest Cover'**

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

**(Area in square Kilometers)**

<b>States/UTs</b>	<b>Total Mangrove cover as per ISFR 2015.</b>	<b>Total Mangrove cover as per ISFR 2013.</b>	<b>Change w.r.t 2013 Assessment</b>
Andhra Pradesh	367	352	15
Goa	26	22	4
Gujarat	1107	1103	4
Karnataka	3	3	0
Kerala	9	6	3
Maharashtra	222	186	36
Odisha	231	213	18
Tamil Nadu	47	39	8
West Bengal	2106	2097	9
A&N Islands	617	604	13
Daman & Diu	3	2	1
Puducherry	2	1	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4740</b>	<b>4628</b>	<b>112</b>

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3808  
due for answer on 09.08.2016 regarding 'Report on Forest Cover'**

**States showing decline in forest cover and reasons for decline**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>States/UTs</b>	<b>Change (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Reasons for decline</b>
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	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-1180</b>	



