

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3837
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2016

Forest Cover

3837. SHRI HUKUM SINGH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the forest cover in India is only 12 percent against the requirement of 33 percent of the total land mass and if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (b) whether it is a fact that from April 2014 to March 2016, the Government has diverted 34,620 hectares of forest land for industrial purpose and final clearances are expected for another 40,000 plus hectares and if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the Government is aware that the economy cannot be expanded at the cost of ecology and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

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. The detailed list showing forest cover and change in forest cover States/UTs wise is given in **Annexure I**.
- (b) The Ministry Environment, Forest and Climate change has accorded final approval for diversion of 29189 hectares forest land during the period from 1st April, 2014 to 31st March, 2016. The details are given in **Annexure-II**. The final clearance for 54476 hectares forest land is under various stages of clearance which is expected to be cleared subject to satisfactory compliance of conditions stipulated in Stage-I. The details are given in **Annexure III**.

(c) The focus of various programmes is development without destruction. There are number of legal instrument to protect & manage the natural resources. These include Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, National Forest Policy-1988, Biological Diversity Act-2002. There are also a number of schemes and programmes under which financial assistance is provided to State Governments for afforestation and protection of existing forests.

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Annexure I

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3837
due for answer on 09.08.2016 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 II

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3837
due for answer on 09.08.2016 regarding 'Forest Cover'**

**Category wise details of the extent of forest land diverted for non forest purpose from 1st
April, 2014 to 31st March, 2016.**

| <u>S.</u> <u>NO.</u> | <u>CATEGORY</u> | Approved | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| | | <u>No. of Cases</u> | <u>Total Land Diverted (Ha.)</u> |
| 1 | Borehole Prospecting | 3 | 44.15 |
| 2 | Defence | 6 | 943.00 |
| 3 | Dispensary/Hospital | 2 | 39.88 |
| 4 | Disputed Settlement Claims | 0 | 0.00 |
| 5 | Drinking Water | 8 | 68.61 |
| 6 | Encroachments | 0 | 0.00 |
| 7 | Forest Village Conversion | 7 | 966.20 |
| 8 | Hydel | 5 | 481.92 |
| 9 | Industry | 27 | 67.30 |
| 10 | Irrigation | 45 | 4157.35 |
| 11 | Mining | 55 | 10381.00 |
| 12 | Quarrying | 1 | 0.17 |
| 13 | Railway | 20 | 620.94 |
| 14 | Rehabilitation | 2 | 242.59 |
| 15 | Road | 152 | 2786.18 |
| 16 | School | 7 | 1.80 |
| 17 | Thermal | 8 | 2433.40 |
| 18 | Transmission Line | 112 | 3436.35 |
| 19 | Village Electricity | 0 | 0.00 |
| 20 | Wind Power | 4 | 232.45 |
| 21 | OTHERS | 427 | 2285.73 |
| Total | | 891 | 29189.02 |

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3837
due for answer on 09.08.2016 regarding 'Forest Cover'**

**Category wise details of the extent of forest land awaiting final clearance under FC Act 1980
for non-forest purpose**

| S. NO. | CATEGORY | Awaiting Final Approval | |
|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | No. of Cases | Total Land Diverted (Ha.) |
| 1 | Borehole Prospecting | 1 | 1457.33 |
| 2 | Defence | 36 | 6084.79 |
| 3 | Dispensary/Hospital | 4 | 0.17 |
| 4 | Disputed Settlement Claims | 0 | 0.00 |
| 5 | Drinking Water | 71 | 1289.00 |
| 6 | Encroachments | 0 | 0.00 |
| 7 | Forest Village Conversion | 2 | 0.04 |
| 8 | Hydel | 40 | 5869.13 |
| 9 | Industry | 17 | 12.39 |
| 10 | Irrigation | 81 | 7631.33 |
| 11 | Mining | 125 | 14095.38 |
| 12 | Quarrying | 3 | 15.20 |
| 13 | Railway | 50 | 1925.80 |
| 14 | Rehabilitation | 1 | 0.21 |
| 15 | Road | 1084 | 9197.95 |
| 16 | School | 16 | 30.30 |
| 17 | Thermal | 6 | 485.33 |
| 18 | Transmission Line | 293 | 2426.92 |
| 19 | Village Electricity | 7 | 7.51 |
| 20 | Wind Power | 21 | 714.50 |
| 21 | OTHERS | 1046 | 3232.80 |
| Total | | 2904 | 54476.10 |

