

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1264
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2026

Assessment of the Quality of Forest Cover

1264. SHRI VARUN CHAUDHRY:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal under consideration for providing access to better satellite resolution to Forest Survey of India for improving the accuracy of India State of Forest Report, if so, the time frame by which it will be accessible, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has undertaken an independent assessment of the quality of forest cover, including forest density and biodiversity, in addition to the area reported in the India State of Forest Report, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of forest land diverted for non-forest purposes during the last three years, State/UT and sector-wise; and
- (d) whether compensatory afforestation has been carried out against all forest land diverted during the last five years, if so, the details of land identified, plantations raised and survival rates?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) & (b) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, carries out the assessment of forest and tree cover of the country biennially and publishes the findings in the India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The forest cover assessment is a wall-to-wall mapping exercise based on interpretation of multi-temporal satellite data supported by extensive ground truthing.

FSI periodically adopts technological and methodological advancements for improving the accuracy and reliability of forest cover mapping. Over the years, these advancements have included the use of improved satellite data, mapping at higher scales, and refinement in image interpretation techniques, while ensuring consistency and comparability of the assessment over time.

The ISFR provides an assessment of the quality of forest cover in addition to the extent of forest cover. The report classifies forest cover on the basis of canopy density into Very Dense Forest (canopy density of 70% and above), Moderately Dense Forest (canopy density of 40% to less than 70%) and Open Forest (canopy density of 10% to less than 40%).

(c) The details of forest land approved for diversion under the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 during the last three years, State/UT-wise and sector-wise, are given at Annexure-I and Annexure-II, respectively.

(d) In compliance of the conditions stipulated under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, the compensatory afforestation is taken up by the concerned State/UT. As per the reports received from the States/UTs, the compensatory afforestation over an area of 1,78,261.52 hectares has been carried out during the last five years. The survival percentage of these plantations have been reported between 40% to 100%.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply of (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1264 due for answer on 27.07.2026 regarding 'Assessment of the Quality of Forest Cover' asked by Shri Jai Prakash and Shri Varun Chaudhry

State/UT-wise area approved for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes under the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 during the period 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2026

Sl. No.	State/UT	Area Approved (ha.)
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4.79
2	Andhra Pradesh	850.37
3	Arunachal Pradesh	7,334.87
4	Assam	601.51
5	Bihar	27.99
6	Chandigarh	0.24
7	Chhattisgarh	4,218.95
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	70.34
9	Delhi	108.30
10	Goa	50.48
11	Gujarat	2,501.43
12	Haryana	546.87
13	Himachal Pradesh	1,510.03
14	Jammu & Kashmir	729.14
15	Jharkhand	5,409.56
16	Karnataka	911.95
17	Kerala	62.42
18	Ladakh	0.94
19	Madhya Pradesh	19,432.14
20	Maharashtra	3,531.59
21	Manipur	1,617.26
22	Meghalaya	62.44
23	Mizoram	665.71
24	Nagaland	3.93
25	Odisha	8,965.71
26	Punjab	677.28
27	Rajasthan	3,553.67
28	Sikkim	866.64
29	Tamil Nadu	60.32
30	Telangana	1,853.29
31	Tripura	257.80
32	Uttar Pradesh	3,390.87
33	Uttarakhand	989.64
34	West Bengal	154.81
Total		71,023.30

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in reply of (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1264 due for answer on 27.07.2026 regarding 'Assessment of the Quality of Forest Cover' asked by Shri Jai Prakash and Shri Varun Chaudhry

Sector/category-wise area approved for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 during the period 01.04.2023 to 31.03.2026

Sl. No.	Category/Sector	Area Approved (ha.)
1	Airport	0.09
2	Canal	115.02
3	Communication Post	20.08
4	Defence	6,276.01
5	Dispensary/Hospital	17.91
6	Drinking Water	999.74
7	Exploration & Survey	0.00
8	Forest Village Conversion	514.64
9	Hydel/Irrigation	14,294.41
10	Industry	110.40
11	Mining/Quarrying	16,463.28
12	Mining of Mineral Oil	11.25
13	Non-Conventional Source of Energy	7.17
14	Optical Fibre Cable/Telecommunication Lines	232.00
15	Others/Water/Rainwater Harvesting Structure	2,007.56
16	Petrol Pump	1,999.55
17	Pipeline	498.44
18	Police & Security Related Establishments	4.13
19	Power Transmission Line/Village Electricity	7,711.55
20	Railway	3,887.71
21	Rehabilitation	2,805.92
22	Road	12,714.93
23	School/Educational Institution	213.93
24	Thermal Power	41.66
25	Upgradation/Strengthening/Widening of Existing Bridge by BRO	0.20
26	Wind Power/Solar Power/Power Sub-station	75.72
Total		71,023.30

