

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 126
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2026

Development on Forest Land

126. DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED:

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

- (a) the details of forest land cleared across the country for developmental activities during the last ten years;
- (b) the estimated number of trees felled as a result of these activities;
- (c) whether the Government has made arrangements to plant equivalent number of trees elsewhere and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of total number of industrial projects for which forest land has been cleared during the said period?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): During last ten years i.e. from 1.04.2016 to 31.03.2026, an area of 1,88,487.93 ha of forest land has been diverted under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, including industrial projects. Diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes is governed in accordance with the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and the rules made thereunder. Accordingly, as per the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023, compensatory afforestation is stipulated as a mandatory condition. The information relating to the number of trees felled under each project is maintained by the respective State/ UT Governments.

Further the Government is implementing the National Mission for a Green India (Green India Mission), which aims to enhance forest and tree cover, improve ecosystem services including carbon sequestration, and increase the resilience of forest-dependent communities. In addition, the Government is implementing various programmes and schemes such as the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI), Nagar Van Yojana, and other afforestation and ecological restoration initiatives through the States/UTs for conservation and enhancement of forest and tree cover and mitigation of climate change impacts.

As per ISFR 2023, the total forest and tree cover of the country has increased to 8,27,357.95 square kilometer which is 25.17% of the geographical area of the country. As compared to ISFR 2021, the total forest and tree cover has increased by 1,445.81 sq km.
