

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 44
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2026

Steps to Increase Forest Cover

44. SHRI AMRA RAM:

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

- (a) whether any national action plan is being implemented by the Government to increase the forest cover and mitigate the impacts of climate change in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the increase or decrease recorded in the total forest and tree cover in the country during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the details of the major programmes being implemented by the Government for afforestation, biodiversity conservation, wildlife protection and reduction in carbon emissions; and
- (d) whether the Government is implementing any special schemes for forest conservation and mitigation of climate change impacts with the participation of local communities, forest dwellers and Gram Panchayats and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) The Government is implementing the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), which comprises eight National Missions aimed at addressing climate change through adaptation and mitigation measures across various sectors. One of these is 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.

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 the findings are published in the India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The forest cover assessment is a wall-to-wall mapping exercise based on remote sensing supported by intensive ground verification and field data from the National Forest Inventory and is published at national and State levels.

As per ISFR 2023, the total forest and tree cover is 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.

The State/UT wise details of forest and tree cover during the last three years and the current year in the country is given in **Annexure**.

The Government is implementing various programmes and schemes for afforestation, biodiversity conservation, wildlife protection and climate change mitigation, including the National Mission for a Green India (Green India Mission) for enhancing forest and tree cover and ecosystem services; Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA) for compensatory afforestation, assisted natural regeneration, forest and wildlife habitat improvement and forest protection; the Forest Fire Prevention and Management (FFPM) Scheme for prevention and control of forest fires; the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH) Scheme, including support for Protected Areas, Project Tiger and Project Elephant, for conservation of wildlife and their habitats; Nagar Van Yojana for creation and development of urban forests and green spaces; MISHTI for restoration of degraded mangrove forest and Green Credit Programme to undertake eco-restoration and tree plantation activities in degraded forest lands. These initiatives contribute to enhancement of forest carbon sinks, conservation of biodiversity, protection of wildlife and mitigation of climate change impacts.

Further, a plantation campaign “एक पेड़ माँ के नाम #Plant4Mother” has also been launched on the occasion of World Environment Day 2024 and in the current year also to undertake plantation activities across the country. This campaign follows the “Whole of Government” and “Whole of Society” approach with participation of all stakeholders for increasing the green cover in the country. The campaign has contributed to large scale plantation aiding the enhancement of green cover in the country.

Community participation forms an integral component of various programmes of the Government. Afforestation, forest protection, biodiversity conservation and restoration activities under schemes such as Green India Mission, CAMPA, National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board and Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats are implemented with the participation of local communities, Joint Forest Management Committees, Eco-Development Committees, forest dwellers and Gram Panchayats, as appropriate, in accordance with the respective scheme guidelines and the role assigned by the concerned State/UT Governments.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply of (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 44 due for answer on 20.07.2026 regarding 'Steps to Increase Forest Cover' asked by Shri Amra Ram:

State/UT-wise details of Forest and Tree Cover as per ISFR 2021 and ISFR 2023

(Area in Square Kilometer)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Geographical Area	Forest & Tree Cover 2021 (A)	Forest & Tree Cover 2023 (B)	Change (B) - (A)
1	Andhra Pradesh	1,62,922.57	35,470.98	35,424.98	-46.00
2	Arunachal Pradesh	83,743.22	67,135.69	67,083.20	-52.49
3	Assam	78,438.00	30,498.93	30,415.01	-83.92
4	Bihar	94,163.00	10,026.64	9,902.66	-123.98
5	Chhattisgarh	1,35,192.00	61,666.83	62,350.45	683.62
6	Delhi	1,483.00	366.42	371.31	4.89
7	Goa	3,702.00	2,527.30	2,523.54	-3.76
8	Gujarat	1,96,244.00	21,484.85	21,648.93	164.08
9	Haryana	44,212.00	3,180.07	3,307.28	127.21
10	Himachal Pradesh	55,673.00	16,338.97	16,435.42	96.45
11	Jharkhand	79,716.00	27,116.37	27,403.33	286.96
12	Karnataka	1,91,791.00	47,492.78	47,033.42	-459.36
13	Kerala	38,852.00	24,951.54	24,965.30	13.76
14	Madhya Pradesh	3,08,252.11	86,335.99	85,723.58	-612.41
15	Maharashtra	3,07,713.00	65,326.67	65,383.41	56.74
16	Manipur	22,327.00	16,857.48	16,795.28	-62.20
17	Meghalaya	22,429.00	17,771.47	17,687.40	-84.07
18	Mizoram	21,081.00	18,379.84	18,558.26	178.42
19	Nagaland	16,579.00	12,741.71	12,616.49	-125.22
20	Odisha	1,55,707.00	58,038.44	58,597.01	558.57
21	Punjab	50,362.00	3,144.47	3,321.24	176.77
22	Rajasthan	3,42,238.99	26,994.87	27,389.33	394.46
23	Sikkim	7,096.00	3,403.85	3,406.73	2.88
24	Tamil Nadu	1,30,060.00	31,834.91	31,820.94	-13.97
25	Telangana	1,12,122.44	24,758.34	24,696.70	-61.64
26	Tripura	10,486.00	7,933.03	7,832.33	-100.70
27	Uttar Pradesh	2,40,927.56	23,437.53	23,996.72	559.19
28	Uttarakhand	53,483.36	25,528.40	25,534.97	6.57
29	West Bengal	88,752.00	19,744.72	19,770.45	25.73
30	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	8,249.00	6,761.45	6,759.89	-1.56
31	Chandigarh	114.00	40.52	46.18	5.66
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	602.00	260.81	262.45	1.64
33	Jammu & Kashmir	2,22,236.00	24,922.11	25,013.36	91.25
34	Ladakh	2,22,236.00	3,338.20	3,178.94	-159.26
35	Lakshadweep	29.63	27.11	27.26	0.15
36	Puducherry	490.00	71.85	73.20	1.35
		32,87,468.88	8,25,911.14	8,27,356.95	1,445.81

