

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1628
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2018

Forest Cover

1628. SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL:

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

- (a) the minimum forest cover requirement of geographical areas as per global standards along with the percentage of forest cover in the country;
- (b) the details of change that took place in forest area during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the role of forests in ecological balance;
- (d) whether the Government has formulated any policy to compensate the number of trees cut down during the last three years and the current year; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) There is no global standard for minimum forest cover as percentage of the geographical area for the countries. Each country has its own policy towards minimum forest cover. Globally, forest cover extends to 30.6% of the geographical area (Global Forest Resource Assessment (GFRA) - 2015, FAO). As per the National Forest Policy, 1988, the national goal is to have a minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. In the hills and in mountainous regions, the aim is to maintain two-third of the area under forest cover in order to prevent erosion and land degradation and to ensure the stability of the fragile eco-system.

As per the latest 'India State of Forest Report (ISFR)- 2017' published by Forest Survey of India, the total forest and tree cover of the country is 8,02,088 square kilometer which is 24.39% of the geographical area of the country. It shows an increase of 6778 square kilometer forest cover reported in the India State of Forest Report 2015.

- (b) As per India State of Forest Report (ISFR)- 2017, the State wise Forest cover and change in forest cover w.r.t India State of forest Report(ISFR)- 2015 is given at **Annexure-I**.

- (c) Forests are important for soil and moisture conservation and micro climate of any region, and are vital for the ecological balance in an area.
- (d) & (e) Whenever forest land is diverted for non-forestry purpose with prior approval under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, compensatory afforestation over an equal non-forest land or double the degraded forest land is carried out from the funds deposited in Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) managed by Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) by the user agencies of such forest land. The details of fund released to the various States/UTs during the last three years for restoration of forest loss and allied activities from CAF against the Annual Plan Operations (APOs) approved by Steering Committee of State CAMPA are given in **Annexure-II**.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1628 due for answer on 27.07.2018 regarding 'Forest Cover'

Change in forest cover in States/UTs in India

(Area in square kilometers)

State	Geographic Area	Total Forest cover as per ISFR-2017	Percent of Geographic area	Change in forest cover wrt. ISFR 2015 updated
Andhra Pradesh	162968	28,147	17.27	2141
Arunachal Pradesh	83743	66,964	79.96	-190
Assam	78438	28,105	35.83	567
Bihar	94163	7,299	7.75	45
Chhattisgarh	135192	55,547	41.09	-12
Delhi	1483	192.41	12.97	3.64
Goa	3702	2,229	60.21	19
Gujarat	196244	14,757	7.52	47
Haryana	44212	1,588	3.59	8
Himachal Pradesh	55673	15,100	27.12	393
Jammu & Kashmir *	222236	23,241	10.46	253
Jharkhand	79716	23,553	29.55	29
Karnataka	191791	37,550	19.58	1101
Kerala	38852	20,321	52.30	1043
Madhya Pradesh	308252	77,414	25.11	-12
Maharashtra	307713	50,682	16.47	-17
Manipur	22327	17,346	77.69	263
Meghalaya	22429	17,146	76.45	-116
Mizoram	21081	18,186	86.27	-531
Nagaland	16579	12,489	75.33	-450
Odisha	155707	51,345	32.98	885
Punjab	50362	1837	3.65	66
Rajasthan	342239	16,572	4.84	466
Sikkim	7096	3,344	47.13	-9
Tamil Nadu	130060	26,281	20.21	73
Telangana	112077	20,419	18.22	565
Tripura	10486	7,726	73.68	-164
Uttar Pradesh	240928	14,679	6.09	278
Uttarakhand	53483	24,295	45.43	23
West Bengal	88752	16,847	18.98	21
A&N Islands	8249	6,742	81.73	-9
Chandigarh	114	21.56	18.91	-0.10
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	207	42.16	1
Daman & Diu	111	20.49	18.46	0.88
Lakshadweep	30	27.10	90.33	0.04
Puducherry	490	53.67	10.95	-3.28
Grand Total	32,87,469	708273	21.54	6778

* Includes Jammu & Kashmir area outside LoC that is under illegal occupation of Pakistan and China.

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1628
due for answer on 27.07.2018 regarding 'Forest Cover'**

**The details of funds released to the States/UTs for the last three years under Compensatory
Afforestation funds**

(Amount in Rupees)

State/UT	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Total Release
Andhra Pradesh	850,000,000	890,000,000	970,000,000	2,710,000,000
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	10,000,000	-	-	10,000,000
Arunachal Pradesh	620,000,000	1,500,000,000	-	2,120,000,000
Assam	-	300,000,000	700,000,000	1,000,000,000
Bihar	341,400,000	330,000,000	393,100,000	1,064,500,000
Chandigarh	21,179,000	10,000,000	11,300,000	42,479,000
Chhattisgarh	2,390,000,000	2,800,000,000	-	5,190,000,000
Delhi	39,100,000	40,000,000	-	79,100,000
Gujarat	330,000,000	990,000,000	270,000,000	1,590,000,000
Haryana	640,000,000	180,000,000	800,000,000	1,620,000,000
Himachal Pradesh	769,800,000	1,320,000,000	1,200,000,000	3,289,800,000
Jammu & Kashmir	310,000,000	1,020,000,000	690,000,000	2,020,000,000
Jharkhand	1,410,000,000	1,490,000,000	2,340,000,000	5,240,000,000
Karnataka	600,000,000	875,200,000	860,000,000	2,335,200,000
Kerala	-	-	80,000,000	80,000,000
Madhya Pradesh	2,130,000,000	1,400,000,000	2,000,000,000	5,530,000,000
Maharashtra	1,550,000,000	2,050,000,000	1,990,000,000	5,590,000,000
Manipur	250,000,000	150,000,000	295,000,000	695,000,000
Meghalaya	165,600,000	-	70,000,000	235,600,000
Mizoram	100,000,000	77,300,000	68,500,000	245,800,000
Odisha	3,220,000,000	4,260,000,000	14,940,400,000	22,420,400,000
Punjab	490,000,000	660,000,000	640,000,000	1,790,000,000
Rajasthan	480,000,000	1,410,600,000	1,790,000,000	3,680,600,000
Sikkim	110,000,000	90,000,000	-	200,000,000
Tamil Nadu	22,000,000	90,000,000	126,800,000	238,800,000
Telangana	760,000,000	1,182,180,000	1,270,000,000	3,212,180,000
Tripura	110,000,000	120,000,000	7,100,000	237,100,000
Uttar Pradesh	1,770,000,000	1,320,000,000	1,230,000,000	4,320,000,000
Uttarakhand	1,640,000,000	1,707,100,000	960,000,000	4,307,100,000
West Bengal	-	210,000,000	-	210,000,000
Total	21,129,079,000	6,472,380,000	33,702,200,000	81,303,659,000

