

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1098
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2019

Deforestation

1098. SHRI OM BIRLA:

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

- (a) the details of actual forest cover against the targets fixed for forest cover during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) whether large-scale deforestation has taken place in the country;
- (c) if so, the details of the area where denudation of forests has taken place during the last three years, State-wise along with the reasons therefor;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to check further denudation of forest area in the country;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to launch a new initiative involving local-level institutions and private sector to expand forest cover in the country, especially in the rural areas; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof including the efforts made by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, a subordinate organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). As per the latest report i.e. ISFR- 2017, the total forest and tree cover in the country is 8,02,088 square kilometers (forest cover 708273 square kilometer, tree cover 93815 square kilometer) which is 24.39% of the geographical area of the country. There is an increase of 8021 square kilometer (forest cover 6778 square kilometer, tree cover 1243 square kilometer) of total forest and tree cover compared to that of ISFR-2015. The State/UT-wise details of forest cover and changes in forest cover as per ISFR-2015 assessment and 2017 assessment is given in **Annexure-I**.
- (b) to (d) For various developmental activities in the country, permission for diversion of the forest

is granted by the Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The forest land diverted under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 during the period from 01.01.2015 to 05.02.2019 is 54648.54 hectares. The State/UTs wise details are given in **Annexure-II**. To compensate for the loss of forest cover, compensatory afforestation on equal area of non-forest land and degraded forest land is taken up by the State Government.

- (e) to (f) To further increase the forest cover in the country, afforestation programmes are being taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and Green India Mission (GIM) being implemented by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes/funding sources such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) and Compensatory Afforestation Fund. National Mission for a Green India (GIM) is one of the eight Missions outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. It aims at protecting, restoring and enhancing India's forest cover and responding to Climate Change. GIM activities were started in the Financial Year 2015-16.

National Afforestation Programme (NAP) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for afforestation and eco-restoration of degraded forests and adjoining areas through people's participation.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1098 due for answer on 08.02.2019 regarding 'Deforestation'

Changes in Forest Cover of States/UTs between 2015 and 2017 assessments

(area in sq km)

State	Geographical Area as per census	2015 Assessment				2017 Assessment				Change			
		VDF	MDF	OF	Total Forest	VDF	MDF	OF	Total Forest	VDF	MDF	OF	Total Change
Andhra Pradesh	162968	421	14352	11233	26006	1957	14051	12139	28147	1536	-301	906	2141
Arunachal Pradesh	83743	20806	31181	15167	67154	20721	30955	15288	66964	-85	-226	121	-190
Assam	78438	1425	11256	14857	27538	2797	10192	15116	28105	1372	-1064	259	567
Bihar	94163	248	3362	3644	7254	332	3260	3707	7299	84	-102	63	45
Chhattisgarh	135192	7001	32305	16253	55559	7064	32215	16268	55547	63	-90	15	-12
Delhi	1483	6.94	57.15	124.68	188.77	6.72	56.24	129.45	192.41	-0.22	-0.91	4.77	3.64
Goa	3702	536	580	1094	2210	538	576	1115	2229	2	-4	21	19
Gujarat	196244	378	5198	9134	14710	378	5200	9179	14757	0	2	45	47
Haryana	44212	28	444	1108	1580	28	452	1108	1588	0	8	0	8
Himachal Pradesh	55673	3225	6387	5095	14707	3110	6705	5285	15100	-115	318	190	393
Jammu & Kashmir *	222236	4061	8815	10112	22988	4075	8579	10587	23241	14	-236	475	253
Jharkhand	79716	2601	9692	11231	23524	2598	9686	11269	23553	-3	-6	38	29
Karnataka	191791	1783	20177	14489	36449	4502	20444	12604	37550	2719	267	1885	1101
Kerala	38852	1529	9328	8421	19278	1663	9407	9251	20321	134	79	830	1043
Madhya Pradesh	308252	6586	34837	36003	77426	6563	34571	36280	77414	-23	-266	277	-12
Maharashtra	307713	8685	20792	21222	50699	8736	20652	21294	50682	51	-140	72	-17
Manipur	22327	729	5964	10390	17083	908	6510	9928	17346	179	546	-462	263
Meghalaya	22429	417	9555	7290	17262	453	9386	7307	17146	36	-169	17	-116
Mizoram	21081	135	5800	12782	18717	131	5861	12194	18186	-4	61	-588	-531
Nagaland	16579	1284	4690	6965	12939	1279	4587	6623	12489	-5	-103	-342	-450
Odisha	155707	6985	21470	22005	50460	6967	21370	23008	51345	-18	-100	1003	885
Punjab	50362	0	733	1038	1771	8	806	1023	1837	8	73	-15	66

State	Geographical Area as per census	2015 Assessment				2017 Assessment				Change			
		VDF	MDF	OF	Total Forest	VDF	MDF	OF	Total Forest	VDF	MDF	OF	Total Change
Rajasthan	342239	77	4414	11615	16106	78	4340	12154	16572	1	-74	539	466
Sikkim	7096	499	2157	697	3353	1081	1575	688	3344	582	-582	-9	-9
Tamil Nadu	130060	3005	10472	12731	26208	3672	10979	11630	26281	667	507	1101	73
Telangana	112077	465	11340	8049	19854	1596	8738	10085	20419	1131	-2602	2036	565
Tripura	10486	110	4669	3111	7890	656	5246	1824	7726	546	577	1287	-164
Uttar Pradesh	240928	2171	4043	8187	14401	2617	4069	7993	14679	446	26	-194	278
Uttarakhand	53483	4804	13662	5806	24272	4969	12884	6442	24295	165	-778	636	23
West Bengal	88752	2943	4176	9707	16826	2994	4147	9706	16847	51	-29	-1	21
A&N Islands	8249	5686	685	380	6751	5678	684	380	6742	-8	-1	0	-9
Chandigarh	114	1.36	13.92	6.38	21.66	1.36	13.82	6.38	21.56	0	-0.1	0	-0.1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	0	80	126	206	0	80	127	207	0	0	1	1
Daman & Diu	111	1.4	5.82	12.39	19.61	1.4	5.82	13.27	20.49	0	0	0.88	0.88
Lakshadweep	30	0	17.22	9.84	27.06	0	17.04	10.06	27.1	0	-0.18	0.22	0.04
Puducherry	490	0	28.78	28.17	56.95	0	17.6	36.07	53.67	0	-11.18	7.9	-3.28
Grand Total	3287469	88633	312739	300123	701495	98158	308318	301797	708273	9525[#]	-4421	1674	6778

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

Difference in the totals is due to rounding off decimals.

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1098
due for answer on 08.02.2019 regarding ' Deforestation'**

**Statement Showing Cases for State/UTs wise diversion of Forest Land Under
Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 during the period 01.01.2015 to 05.02.2019.**

(Area in hectares)

S. No.	States/UTs	No. of Cases	Area Diverted
1	Andaman and Nicobar	6	20.14
2	Andhra Pradesh	34	3474.57
3	Arunachal Pradesh	12	451.37
4	Assam	1	1.00
5	Bihar	125	1131.60
6	Chandigarh	2	0.39
7	Chhattisgarh	36	3793.05
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	9	5.40
9	Daman and Diu	0	0.00
10	Delhi	1	12.00
11	Goa	8	42.75
12	Gujarat	110	2009.30
13	Haryana	928	1529.24
14	Himachal Pradesh	131	959.63
15	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0.00
16	Jharkhand	31	690.87
17	Karnataka	62	802.75
18	Kerala	8	15.82
19	Lakshadweep	0	0.00
20	Madhya Pradesh	241	12785.98
21	Maharashtra	33	3797.16
22	Manipur	7	263.20
23	Meghalaya	2	142.93
24	Mizoram	1	0.24
25	Nagaland	0	0.00
26	Orissa	58	4968.48
27	Pondicherry	0	0.00
28	Punjab	728	1524.99
29	Rajasthan	84	2834.34
30	Sikkim	8	24.30
31	Tamil Nadu	11	542.40
32	Telangana	32	9420.24
33	Tripura	9	83.98
34	Uttar Pradesh	4	163.76
35	Uttarakhand	255	2850.87
36	West Bengal	11	305.77
Grand Total		2988	54648.54

