

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 2818
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2023

Illegal Deforestation

2818. SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the environment has been adversely affected due to illegal deforestation in country;
- (b) if so, the percentage of forest area decreased during the last three years as on date, State-wise; and
- (c) the details of the efforts made by the Government to stop deforestation along with the details of dialogues made with the State Governments in this regard during the last three years till date?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) & (b) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest cover biennially, since 1987 and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The total forest cover in the country as per ISFR 2021 assessment is 7,13,789 square kilometer which is 21.71% of the geographical area of the country. Further, the total forest and tree cover of the country as per ISFR 2021 assessment is 8,09,537 square kilometer which is 24.62% of the geographical area of the country. The total forest cover has increased by 1540 square kilometer as compared to the ISFR 2019 assessment. Hence, deforestation cannot be attributed as a factor causing adverse impacts on environment in the country.

The State/UTs details of increase/decrease in forest cover between ISFR 2019 and ISFR 2021 alongwith change percentage is given in **Annexure-I**.

(c) The Protection and management of forests is primarily the responsibility of concerned State Governments/UT Administrations which take appropriate actions under the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and rules made there under, and also under State Specific Acts and Rules. Further, the Ministry provides technical and financial assistance to States/UTs under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely Green India Mission (GIM), Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme, CAMPA, Nagar Van Yojana including other schemes of line Ministries to increase the forest and tree cover of the country.

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2818
due for answer on 07.08.2023 regarding 'Illegal Deforestation'**

**States/UTs details of increase/decrease in Forest Cover between ISFR 2019 and ISFR 2021
(Area in Square Kilometer)**

| S. No. | States/UTs | Geographical area | ISFR | ISFR | Change in Forest Cover (b-a) | Change Percentage w.r.t. 2019 assessment |
|--------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------------|--|
| | | | 2019 (a) | 2021 (b) | | |
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 1,62,968 | 29,137 | 29,784 | 647 | 2.22 |
| 2 | Arunachal Pradesh | 83,743 | 66,688 | 66,431 | -257 | -0.39 |
| 3 | Assam | 78,438 | 28,327 | 28,312 | -15 | -0.05 |
| 4 | Bihar | 94,163 | 7,306 | 7,381 | 75 | 1.03 |
| 5 | Chhattisgarh | 1,35,192 | 55,611 | 55,717 | 106 | 0.19 |
| 6 | Delhi | 1,483 | 195.44 | 195 | -0.44 | -0.23 |
| 7 | Goa | 3,702 | 2,237 | 2,244 | 7 | 0.31 |
| 8 | Gujarat | 1,96,244 | 14,857 | 14,926 | 69 | 0.46 |
| 9 | Haryana | 44,212 | 1,602 | 1,603 | 1 | 0.06 |
| 10 | Himachal Pradesh | 55,673 | 15,434 | 15,443 | 9 | 0.06 |
| 11 | Jharkhand | 79,716 | 23,611 | 23,721 | 110 | 0.47 |
| 12 | Karnataka | 1,91,791 | 38,575 | 38,730 | 155 | 0.40 |
| 13 | Kerala | 38,852 | 21,144 | 21,253 | 109 | 0.52 |
| 14 | Madhya Pradesh | 3,08,252 | 77,482 | 77,493 | 11 | 0.01 |
| 15 | Maharashtra | 3,07,713 | 50,778 | 50,798 | 20 | 0.04 |
| 16 | Manipur | 22,327 | 16,847 | 16,598 | -249 | -1.48 |
| 17 | Meghalaya | 22,429 | 17,119 | 17,046 | -73 | -0.43 |
| 18 | Mizoram | 21,081 | 18,006 | 17,820 | -186 | -1.03 |
| 19 | Nagaland | 16,579 | 12,486 | 12,251 | -235 | -1.88 |
| 20 | Odisha | 1,55,707 | 51,619 | 52,156 | 537 | 1.04 |
| 21 | Punjab | 50,362 | 1,849 | 1,847 | -2 | -0.11 |
| 22 | Rajasthan | 3,42,239 | 16,630 | 16,655 | 25 | 0.15 |
| 23 | Sikkim | 7,096 | 3,342 | 3,341 | -1 | -0.03 |
| 24 | Tamil Nadu | 1,30,060 | 26,364 | 26,419 | 55 | 0.21 |
| 25 | Telangana | 1,12,077 | 20,582 | 21,214 | 632 | 3.07 |
| 26 | Tripura | 10,486 | 7,726 | 7,722 | -4 | -0.05 |
| 27 | Uttar Pradesh | 2,40,928 | 14,806 | 14,818 | 12 | 0.08 |
| 28 | Uttarakhand | 53,483 | 24,303 | 24,305 | 2 | 0.01 |
| 29 | West Bengal | 88,752 | 16,902 | 16,832 | -70 | -0.41 |
| 30 | A&N Islands | 8,249 | 6,743 | 6,744 | 1 | 0.01 |
| 31 | Chandigarh | 114 | 22.03 | 22.88 | 0.85 | 3.86 |
| 32 | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 491 | 207.16 | 227.75 | 0.10 | 0.04 |
| 33 | Daman & Diu | 111 | 20.49 | | | |
| 34 | Jammu & Kashmir | 2,22,236 | 21,358 | 21,387 | 29 | 0.14 |
| 35 | Ladakh | | 2,254 | 2,272 | 18 | 0.80 |
| 36 | Lakshadweep | 30 | 27.1 | 27.1 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 37 | Puducherry | 490 | 52.41 | 53.3 | 0.89 | 1.70 |
| | Grand Total | 32,87,469 | 7,12,249 | 7,13,789 | 1,540 | 0.22 |

