

Protection of forests

3238. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to protect forest areas in the country; and

(b) the total forest area in our country, State-wise and whether the forest cover area has drastically gone down because of illegal log cutting, mining and industrialization and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Protection and management of forest areas is primarily the responsibility of concerned State/UT Government. However, the Central Government provides financial assistance to States/UT Governments through the Centrally Sponsored Integrated Forest Protection Scheme (now renamed as Intensification of Forest Management Scheme). This financial assistance is made available for forest-fire control and management, strengthening of infrastructure, preparation of working plans and other protection related measures. In addition, various State/UTs Governments also take up protection measures under the representative schemes of the State/UT plan.

(b) The total recorded forest area in the country is 7,69,626 sq.km. The State-wise details are given at Statement-I (See below). The forest cover is assessed by the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, on biennial basis and the results published in the State Forest Report (SFR). The forest cover in the country was assessed to be 6,77,816 sq.km. in 2003 and 6,77,088 sq.k.m. in 2005. This assessment indicates only a marginal net decrease of 728 sq.km. in the forest cover during the intervening period. The State-wise details of forest cover assessments are given at Statement-II (See below) and the reasons for loss of forest cover wherever it has happened are given at Statement-III (See below). There are no reports on any drastic reduction in forest cover due to illegal logging, mining or industrialization.

Statement-I

Recorded Forest Area in States/UTs in India

(area in Km²)

State/UT	Recorded Forest Area SFR 2005	
	Area	% of GA
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	63,821	23.20
Arunachal Pradesh	51,540,	61.55
Assam	26,832	34.21
Bihar	6,473	6.87

1	2	3
Chhattisgarh	59,772	44.21
Goa	1,224	33.06
Gujarat	18,962	9.67
Haryana	1,559	3.53
Himachal Pradesh	37,033	66.52
Jammu and Kashmir	20,230	9.10
Jharkhand	23,605	29.61
Karnataka	38,284	19.96
Kerala	11,265	28.99
Madhya Pradesh	94,689	30.72
Maharashtra	61,939	20.13
Manipur	17,418	78.01
Meghalaya	9,496	42.34
Mizoram	16,717	79.30
Nagaland	9,222	55.62
Orissa	58,136	37.34
Punjab	3,084	6.12
Rajasthan	32,488	9.49
Sikkim	5,841	82.31
Tamil Nadu	22,877	17.59
Tripura	6,294	60.02
Uttar Pradesh	16,796	6.97
Uttarakhand	34,651	64.79
West Bengal	11,879	13.38
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7,171	86.93
Chandigarh	33	28.95
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	204	41.55
Daman and Diu	6	5.72

1	2	3
Delhi	85	5.73
Lakshadweep	0	0
Puducherry	0	0
TOTAL:	769,626	23.41

Statement-II

Change in the forest cover of States/UTs between 2003 and 2005 assessments

State/UT	Forest Cover (2003 Assessment)	Forest Cover (2005 Assessment)	Change
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	44,412	44,372	-40
Arunachal Pradesh	67,692	67,777	85
Assam	27,735	27,645	-90
Bihar	5,573	5,579	6
Chhattisgarh	55,992	55,863	-129
Delhi	174	176	2
Goa	2,164	2,164	0
Gujarat	14,814	14,715	-99
Haryana	1,576	1,587	11
Himachal Pradesh	14,359	14,369	10
Jammu and Kashmir	21,273	21,273	0
Jharkhand	22,569	22,591	22
Karnataka	35,246	35,251	5
Kerala	15,595	15,595	0
Madhya Pradesh	76,145	76,013	-132
Maharashtra	47,514	47,476	-38
Manipur	17,259	17,086	-173
Meghalaya	16,925	16,988	63

1	2	3	4
Mizoram	18,583	18,684	101
Nagaland	14,015	13,719	-296
Orissa	48,353	48,374	21
Punjab	1,545	1,558	13
Rajasthan	15,821	15,850	29
Sikkim	3,262	3,262	0
Tamil Nadu	23,003	23,044	41
Tripura	8,123	8,155	32
Uttar Pradesh	14,127	14,127	0
Uttarakhand	24,460	24,442	-18
West Bengal	12,389	12,413	24
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6,807	6,629	-178
Chandigarh	15	15	0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	221	221	0
Daman and Diu	8	8	0
Lakshadweep	25	25	0
Puducherry	42	42	0
Total	677,816	677,088	-728

Statement-III

Reasons for loss of the forest cover in different States/UTs of the country

State/UT	Change (in Km ²)	Important Reasons
1	2	3
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-178	destruction due to Tsunami
Andhra Pradesh	-40	felling of matured plantations by APFDC
Assam	-90	illicit felling in insurgency affected areas and due to shifting cultivation

1	2	3
Chhattisgarh	-129	submergence of forest area due to construction of dams, felling of trees
Gujarat	-99	large scale felling and uprooting of <i>prosopis juliflora</i> trees from private and revenue lands by local people.
Madhya Pradesh	-132	submergence of forest area due to construction of dams
Maharashtra	-38	felling of matured plantations by the FDC
Manipur	-173	shifting cultivation
Nagaland	-296	shifting cultivation and gregarious flowering of muli bamboo
Uttarakhand	-18	rehabilitation of the displaced people in forest areas (Haridwar) and rotational felling of Eucalyptus (Udham Singh Nagar)

Bio-diversity Conservation and Livelihood Project

†3239. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bio-diversity Conservation and Livelihood Project in the adjoining areas of the National Parks had to be operational across the country, with support from the World Bank;

(b) if so, the objectives of this scheme and the parks of which States were allocated amount for this project and how much;

(c) whether regular allocation of the amount is being made for this project and the number of beneficiaries so far, therefrom; and

(d) if not, the reasons for allocation not being made regularly and by when the amount would be allocated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The externally aided "Biodiversity Conservation and Rural Livelihood Improvement Project" is finally proposed for implementation only in two sites/landscapes *viz.* the Askot Musk Deer Sanctuary (Uttarakhand) and the Little Rann of Kutch (Gujarat). The objective of the proposed Project is to enhance institutional capacity for integrating sustainable livelihoods and biodiversity conservation at the landscape level. The details of grants provided initially to States for preparing the said project are at Statement (See below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.