

been carrying out assessment of forest cover on biennial basis since 1987 and India State of Forest Report-2013 is the latest in the series. Forest Survey of India has classified the forest cover in different density classes as per details given below:—

Class	Area in square kilometer	Percentage of geographical area
<b>Forest Cover</b>		
Very Dense Forest (Canopy Density of 70% and above)	83,502	2.54
Moderately Dense Forest (Canopy Density 40% or more and less than 70%)	318,745	9.70
Open Forest (Canopy Density of 10% or more and less than 40%)	295,651	8.99
<b>TOTAL FOREST COVER</b>	<b>697,898</b>	<b>21.23</b>

In addition to above, degraded forest land having canopy density less than 10% are classified as Scrub. The area under Scrub is reported to be 41,383 square kilometers which is 1.26% of total geographical area of the country.

(b) There is no specific plan for Scrub area. However, afforestation under various Central and State Sectors Schemes is taken up in such patches of Scrub area which are suitable for planting activity.

#### **Affected livelihood of fishing communities**

2434. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the loss of beaches and restricted access to sea due to seawalls is affecting the livelihood of fishing communities in several coastal villages; and

(b) if so, what does Government propose to do to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) No instance of seawalls restricting of access to sea and thereby affecting livelihood of fishing communities in several coastal villages was brought to the notice of the Central Government. In fact, erosion control measures like seawall is proposed only at eroding coastal stretches by the State Governments for the prevention of the coastal erosion and thereby save the beaches.

(b) Does not arise.