

to allow temporary work of emergent nature, has issued guidelines on 07.10.2014. The guidelines have been issued for allowing use of the forest land for a short period without involving part of any protected area, felling of tree, breaking of land or assigning it on lease or otherwise. While taking such decision, the State Government shall ensure that such use of forest land is for public purposes and allowed for a period of not more than two-week time. Before allowing such use, it shall be ascertained that there is no alternate non forest land available.

Shortage of revenue land

46. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has exempted States and Union Territories having more than 75 per cent forest cover, from providing alternative land in the same State *in lieu* of diversion of forests land for various projects;

(b) if so, the names of the States with forest cover in terms of percentage; and

(c) steps taken to help those States in this regard which have shortage of revenue land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) The Ministry has issued guidelines for Compensatory Afforestation for the States/UTs having forest cover of more than 75% of their total geographical area, shall not be insisted upon to provide non-forest land within the UT/State itself, *in lieu* of use of forest land approved for non-forest purposes. However, the same may be taken up in any other State/UT having deficient forest cover.

(b) List of the States/UTs indicating percentage of forest cover to their total geographical area, as per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR)-2017 is given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) Ministry has issued letter dated 21.10.2019 to all States/UTs Governments for identification of non-forest land and degraded forest land for taking up compensatory afforestation in respect of use of forest land approved for non-forest purposes in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Statement

List of the States/UTs indicating percentage of forest cover to their total geographical area as per ISFR-2017

State	ISFR-2017 Assessment	
	Total geographic area	Forest cover as percentage of geographical area
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	162,968	17.27
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	79.96
Assam	78,438	35.83
Bihar	94,163	7.75
Chhattisgarh	135,192	41.09
Delhi	1,483	12.97
Goa	3,702	60.21
Gujarat	196,244	7.52
Haryana	44,212	3.59
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	27.12
Jammu and Kashmir	222,236	10.46
Jharkhand	79,716	29.55
Karnataka	191,791	19.58
Kerala	38,852	52.30
Madhya Pradesh	308,252	25.11
Maharashtra	307,713	16.47
Manipur	22,327	77.69
Meghalaya	22,429	76.45
Mizoram	21,081	86.27

1	2	3
Nagaland	16579	75.33
Odisha	155707	32.98
Punjab	50,362	3.65
Rajasthan	342,239	4.84
Sikkim	7,096	47.13
Tamil Nadu	130,060	20.21
Telangana	112,077	18.22
Tripura	10,486	73.68
Uttar Pradesh	240,928	6.09
Uttarakhand	53,483	45.43
West Bengal	88,752	18.98
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8,249	81.73
Chandigarh	114	18.91
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	491	42.16
Daman and Diu	111	18.46
Lakshadweep	30	90.33
Puducherry	490	10.95
GRAND TOTAL	32,87,469	1296.27

Rising pollution level in metropolitan cities

†47. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pollution level is rising in most of the metropolitan cities; and

(b) if so, the plans of Government to deal with the catastrophic situation arising out of environmental pollution?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.