

students on various environmental issues, viz. biodiversity conservation, pollution, waste management, etc. through capacity building programmes.

Forest area in Gujarat

†1189. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the area of forest land in Gujarat at present;
- (b) the area of land required to be conserved as forestland in districts of Gujarat as per the rules;
- (c) whether all the districts of Gujarat have forest land as per the rules at present; and
- (d) if not, districts of Gujarat not having forestland as per the rule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) As per information provided by State Forest Department of Gujarat, the Total recorded forest area in Gujarat State is 21859.22 square kilometre (km²).

(b) As per the rules and guidelines, a Total of 21859.22 km² of recorded forest area and 192.24 km² of other forest area are required to be conserved in Gujarat State.

(c) and (d) As informed by the State of Gujarat, all districts have forest land in the State as per rules.

Expected increase in forest cover

†1190. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state the details of increase in tree and forest cover recorded during the last five years and the percentage increase in forest area expected by 2022 in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest and tree cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The details of increase in forest and tree cover as per ISFR - 2015, 2017 and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

2019 are given in Statement (*See* below).

As per the National Forest Policy 1988, the national goal should be to have a minimum of one-third of the Total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. In the hill and in mountainous regions, the aim should be to maintain two-third of the area under such cover in order to prevent erosion and land degradation and to ensure the stability of fragile eco-system.

The Total forest and tree cover of the country, as per the ISFR 2019 is 8, 07,276 square kilometre (km²) which is 24.56% of the Total geographical area of the country. It comprises of 7,2,249 km² of Forest Cover, and 95,027 km of Tree Cover. The ISFR 2019 shows an increase of 5,188 km² (forest cover 3,976 km² and tree cover 1,212 km²) over that of ISFR 2017.

To further increase the forest cover in the country, the Ministry is taking several initiatives. These include ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Ministry such as National Afforestation Programme, National Mission for a Green India and Development of Wildlife Habitats. The recently promulgated Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules, 2018 also contain provisions for taking up assisted natural regeneration, artificial regeneration and silvicultural operations in forests which contribute to increase in forest cover. The Ministry also supports school nursery and urban forestry programmes through people's participation.

Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes/funding sources such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana and under the schemes/plans of States and Union Territories.

Statement

Increase in Forest and Tree cover in the States/UTs

ISFR	Forest Cover	Increase in Forest Cover	(Area in square kilometre)	
			Tree Cover	Increase in Tree Cover
2015	7,01,673	3,775	92,572	1,306
2017	7,08,273	6,778	93,815	1,243
2019	7,12,249	3,976	95,027	1,212