

- (vi) An innovation ecosystem to foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace titled Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) has been launched in April, 2018.
- (vii) FDI Policy has been revised and FDI is allowed under automatic route upto 49% and upto 100% with Government approvals.
- (viii) Defence Products list requiring Industrial Licences has been rationised.
- (ix) In March, 2019 Government has notified a Policy for indigenization of components and spares used in Defence Platforms.

#### **Shortage of equipment for soldiers**

2420. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per the recent report of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) soldiers in Ladakh and Siachen are facing acute shortage of essential snow boots, other high altitude clothing and goggles, etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for the same; and
- (d) the details of fund allocated, released and utilised for the above items during 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) The authorisation and holding of essential items including snow boots, other high altitude clothing and goggles, etc. to the soldiers deployed in Ladakh and Siachen is as per operational requirement of the Indian Army. Based on the allocation of funds under Budget Estimates/Supplementary/Revised Estimates, sufficient funds are made available to meet the critical requirements of such items.

#### **Increase in forest cover**

2421. DR. L. HANUMANTHALAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether forest cover in the country has increased during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise/ UT-wise including Karnataka; and

(c) the details of initiatives being taken by Government to save forests and trees to increase the forest cover of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry, carries out assessment of forest of the country biennially and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The Total forest cover of the country, as per the ISFR 2019 is 7,12,249 km<sub>2</sub> which is 21.67% of the Total geographical area of the country. This is an increase of 3976 km<sub>2</sub> as compared to that of Total forest cover in ISFR-2017. State and Union Territories wise change in forest cover as per ISFR 2017 and 2019 are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) To increase and improve forest and tree cover in the country, the Ministry has been 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. People's participation in implementation is at the core of these schemes, which also helps protection of the forest areas. The 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.

Afforestation and tree planting activities are also taken up by other Ministries 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 (UTs).

Protection of forests from various threats is primarily the responsibility of the respective State or UT who take action as per the existing Acts/Rules. Protection of plantation and forests, forest fire prevention and control operations, communications and information technology for the purpose of protection of forests and wildlife, residential/office buildings for frontline staff deployed for protection etc. are permissible activities under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules, 2018. In addition, the Ministry also provides financial assistance to States and UTs under Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme to save forests from fire.

*Statement**State and UT-wise forest cover as per ISFR 2019*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Geographical Area	Total Forest Cover as per ISFR 2017	Total Forest Cover as per ISFR 2019	Change in forest cover w.r.t ISFR 2017-2019
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	162,968	28,147	29,137	990
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	66,964	66,688	-276
3.	Assam	78,438	28,105	28,327	222
4.	Bihar	94,163	7,299	7,306	7
5.	Chhattisgarh	135,192	55,547	55,611	64
6.	Delhi	1,483	192.41	195.44	3.03
7.	Goa	3,702	2,229	2,237	8
8.	Gujarat	196,244	14,757	14,857	100
9.	Haryana -	44,212	1,588	1,602	14
10.	Himachal Pradesh	55,673	15,100	15,434	334
11.	Jammu and Kashmir *	222,236	23,241	23,612	371
12.	Jharkhand	79,716	23,553	23,611	58
13.	Karnataka	191,791	37,550	38,575	1,025
14.	Kerala	38,852	20,321	21,144	823
15.	Madhya Pradesh	308,252	77,414	77,482	68
16.	Maharashtra	307,713	50,682	50,778	96
17.	Manipur	22,327	17,346	16,847	-499
18.	Meghalaya	22,429	17,146	17,119	-27
19.	Mizoram	21,081	18,186	18,006	-180
20.	Nagaland	16,579	12,489	12,486	-3

1	2	3	4	5	6
21.	Odisha	155,707	51,345	51,619	274
22.	Punjab	50,362	1,837	1,849	12
23.	Rajasthan	342,239	16,572	16,630	58
24.	Sikkim	7,096	3,344	3,342	-2
25.	Tamil Nadu	130,060	26,281	26,364	83
26.	Telangana	112,077	20,419	20,582	163
27.	Tripura	10,486	7,726	7,726	0
28.	Uttar Pradesh	240,928	14,679	14,806	127
29.	Uttarakhand	53,483	24,295	24,303	8
30.	West Bengal	88,752	16,847	16,902	55
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8,249	6,742	6,743	1
32.	Chandigarh	114	21.56	22.03	0.47
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	491	207	207	0
34.	Daman and Diu	111	20.49	20.49	0
35.	Lakshadweep	30	27.10	27.10	0
36.	Puducherry	490	53.67	52.41	-1.26
TOTAL		3,287,469	7,08,273	7,12,249	3,976

#### Prevention of fire in zoos

†2422. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of provisions made to prevent fire incidents in Zoos of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) The Central Zoo

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.