

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 1009**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 10.02.2022

**Depleting forest cover in the country**

1009. SHRI P. WILSON:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures that will be undertaken by Government to achieve sustainability in development and to ensure the growth of forest cover, as the "India State of Forest Report" released by Government, states that growth of India's forest cover has slowed to an eight-year low in 2021;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to increase the forest cover given that 45-64 per cent of India's forests is projected to be impacted by climate change and rising temperatures;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to increase afforestation across the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially since 1987 and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The forest cover assessment is a wall-to-wall mapping exercise based on remote sensing supported by intensive ground verification and field data from National Forest Inventory. The ISFR-2021 has been recently released by the Ministry on 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2022. As per ISFR 2021, there is an overall increase of 1540 square kilometre of forest cover at the national level as compared to the previous assessment i.e. ISFR 2019. The details of forest cover as per the India State of Forest Reports in the last 8 years are given at **Annexure**.
- (b) to (d) For protecting, restoring and enhancing India's forest cover and responding to Climate Change and rising temperatures by means of plantation activities in the forest and non-forest areas, afforestation and tree plantation activities are undertaken by States and Union Territories Governments under various State schemes. The Ministry provides financial assistance to States and Union Territories Governments under various Centrally

Sponsored Schemes including, inter alia, National Afforestation Programme, Green India Mission to support and supplement the efforts of States and Union Territories.

Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes/schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Compensatory Afforestation Funds under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). These initiatives also help in conservation of very dense forests and moderately dense forests as well as to increase forest and tree cover.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Annexure**

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1009 due for answer on 10.02.2022 regarding 'Depleting forest cover in the country'**

**(Area in square kilometre)**

<b>India State of Forest Report</b>	<b>Geographical area (GA)</b>	<b>Forest Cover</b>	<b>Percentage as compared to Geographical area</b>	<b>Change in Forest Cover</b>
<b>ISFR 2013</b>	3,287,469	697,898	21.23	5,871
<b>ISFR 2015</b>		701,495	21.34	3,597
<b>ISFR 2017</b>		708,273	21.54	6,778
<b>ISFR 2019</b>		712,249	21.67	3,976
<b>ISFR 2021</b>		713,789	21.71	1,540