

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 3904**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2023**

**Forest cover in the country**

3904. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

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

- (a) the details of forest cover in the country as on date, State-wise;
- (b) whether any steps have been taken to increase the forest land in the country during the last five years;
- (c) the quantum of funds allocated for this purpose; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to enact a new law for the conservation of forest land, and if so, the details thereof?

**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 biennially, since 1987 and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). As per latest ISFR 2021, the total forest cover of the country is 7,13,789 square kilometer which is 21.71% of the geographical area of the country. The forest cover has increased by 1,540 square kilometer between ISFR 2019 and ISFR 2021 assessment. The State/UTs wise details of forest cover as per ISFR 2021 are given in **Annexure I**.

(b) & (c) In order to restore ecosystems and increase the forest cover in the country, afforestation and tree plantation activities are undertaken by States/UTs. The Ministry provides financial assistance to States/UTs under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely Green India Mission (GIM) to support and supplement the efforts of States and Union Territories. GIM activities were started in the Financial Year 2015-16. During the last five years, the amount of Rs. 570.70 Crores has been released to sixteen States and one union territory for taking up the afforestation activities.

The Ministry is implementing Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) since the year 2020 which envisages creation of 600 Nagar Vans and 400 Nagar Vatika in the country during the period 2020-21 to 2024-25 under the funds available under Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA). The Nagar Van Yojana aims to enhance the green cover in the urban and peri-urban areas including biological diversity, provide ecological benefits and improve the quality of life of city dwellers. So far, the Ministry has approved 270 projects under Nagar Van Yojana with the total cost of Rs.238.64 Crore.

The Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA fund) is being utilized by States/UTs for taking up compensatory afforestation as per approved Annual Plan of Operations for compensating the loss of forest & tree cover due to diversion of forest land for developmental projects as per provisions of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 (CAF Act) and CAF Rules, 2018. During the last five years, an amount of Rs. 55,394.16 Crore has been released to State/UT Forest Department under CAMPA funds.

Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes and schemes of line Ministry such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Bamboo Mission, Sub-Mission on Agroforestry etc. and under schemes of State Government/UT Administration through different departments, Non-Government Organizations, Civil Society, Corporate bodies etc. The multi departmental efforts have yielded good results in conserving and enhancing forest cover in the country.

(d) Conservation and Protection of forests is primarily undertaken under the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and rules made there under, and also under State Specific Acts and Rules.

\*\*\*\*

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3904  
due for answer on 06.04.2023 regarding 'Forest cover in the country'**

**State/UTs details of Forest Cover as per ISFR 2021**

(Area in square kilometer)

| S. No.       | State/UT                             | Geo-graphical Area (GA) | Total Forest Cover | Percent age of Geogra phical area | Change in Forest Cover w.r.t. ISFR 2019 | Change Percentage w.r.t. 2019 assessment | Scrub         |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1            | Andhra Pradesh                       | 1,62,968                | 29,784             | 18.28                             | 647                                     | 2.22                                     | 8,276         |
| 2            | Arunachal Pradesh                    | 83,743                  | 66,431             | 79.33                             | -257                                    | -0.39                                    | 797           |
| 3            | Assam                                | 78,438                  | 28,312             | 36.09                             | -15                                     | -0.05                                    | 228           |
| 4            | Bihar                                | 94,163                  | 7,381              | 7.84                              | 75                                      | 1.03                                     | 236           |
| 5            | Chhattisgarh                         | 1,35,192                | 55,717             | 41.21                             | 106                                     | 0.19                                     | 615           |
| 6            | Delhi                                | 1,483                   | 195.00             | 13.15                             | -0.44                                   | -0.23                                    | 0.38          |
| 7            | Goa                                  | 3,702                   | 2,244              | 60.62                             | 7                                       | 0.31                                     | 0             |
| 8            | Gujarat                              | 1,96,244                | 14,926             | 7.61                              | 69                                      | 0.46                                     | 2,828         |
| 9            | Haryana                              | 44,212                  | 1,603              | 3.63                              | 1                                       | 0.06                                     | 159           |
| 10           | Himachal Pradesh                     | 55,673                  | 15,443             | 27.73                             | 9                                       | 0.06                                     | 322           |
| 11           | Jharkhand                            | 79,716                  | 23,721             | 29.76                             | 110                                     | 0.47                                     | 584           |
| 12           | Karnataka                            | 1,91,791                | 38,730             | 20.19                             | 155                                     | 0.40                                     | 4,611         |
| 13           | Kerala                               | 38,852                  | 21,253             | 54.70                             | 109                                     | 0.52                                     | 30            |
| 14           | Madhya Pradesh                       | 3,08,252                | 77,493             | 25.14                             | 11                                      | 0.01                                     | 5,457         |
| 15           | Maharashtra                          | 3,07,713                | 50,798             | 16.51                             | 20                                      | 0.04                                     | 4,247         |
| 16           | Manipur                              | 22,327                  | 16,598             | 74.34                             | -249                                    | -1.48                                    | 1,215         |
| 17           | Meghalaya                            | 22,429                  | 17,046             | 76.00                             | -73                                     | -0.43                                    | 663           |
| 18           | Mizoram                              | 21,081                  | 17,820             | 84.53                             | -186                                    | -1.03                                    | 1             |
| 19           | Nagaland                             | 16,579                  | 12,251             | 73.90                             | -235                                    | -1.88                                    | 824           |
| 20           | Odisha                               | 1,55,707                | 52,156             | 33.50                             | 537                                     | 1.04                                     | 4,924         |
| 21           | Punjab                               | 50,362                  | 1,847              | 3.67                              | -2                                      | -0.11                                    | 34            |
| 22           | Rajasthan                            | 3,42,239                | 16,655             | 4.87                              | 25                                      | 0.15                                     | 4,809         |
| 23           | Sikkim                               | 7,096                   | 3,341              | 47.08                             | -1                                      | -0.03                                    | 296           |
| 24           | Tamil Nadu                           | 1,30,060                | 26,419             | 20.31                             | 55                                      | 0.21                                     | 758           |
| 25           | Telangana                            | 1,12,077                | 21,214             | 18.93                             | 632                                     | 3.07                                     | 2,911         |
| 26           | Tripura                              | 10,486                  | 7,722              | 73.64                             | -4                                      | -0.05                                    | 33            |
| 27           | Uttar Pradesh                        | 2,40,928                | 14,818             | 6.15                              | 12                                      | 0.08                                     | 563           |
| 28           | Uttarakhand                          | 53,483                  | 24,305             | 45.44                             | 2                                       | 0.01                                     | 392           |
| 29           | West Bengal                          | 88,752                  | 16,832             | 18.96                             | -70                                     | -0.41                                    | 156           |
| 30           | A & N Islands                        | 8,249                   | 6,744              | 81.75                             | 1                                       | 0.01                                     | 1             |
| 31           | Chandigarh                           | 114                     | 22.88              | 20.07                             | 0.85                                    | 3.86                                     | 0.38          |
| 32           | Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu | 602                     | 227.75             | 37.83                             | 0.10                                    | 0.04                                     | 4.85          |
| 33           | Jammu & Kashmir                      | 2,22,236                | 21,387             | 39.15                             | 29                                      | 0.14                                     | 284           |
| 34           | Ladakh                               |                         | 2,272              | 1.35                              | 18                                      | 0.80                                     | 279           |
| 35           | Lakshadweep                          | 30                      | 27.10              | 90.33                             | 0.00                                    | 0.00                                     | 0.00          |
| 36           | Puducherry                           | 490                     | 53.30              | 10.88                             | 0.89                                    | 1.70                                     | 0.00          |
| <b>Total</b> |                                      | <b>32,87,469</b>        | <b>7,13,789</b>    | <b>21.71</b>                      | <b>1,540</b>                            | <b>0.22</b>                              | <b>46,539</b> |