

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 42
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2023

Measures taken to increase Moderately Dense Forest

42 SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM:

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

- (a) the total forest cover of the country and its share in the total area, details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) the area covered under the very Dense Forest, Moderately Dense Forest and Open Forest Area out of the above forest cover;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the area of Moderately Dense Forest is continuously decreasing and the area of open forest is increasing; and
- (d) if so, the efforts made to increase the area of Moderately Dense Forest, details of the Budget released for this purpose and amount spent during last five years along with the achievement made in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) The 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). As per latest ISFR 2021, the total forest cover of the country is 7,13,789 square kilometre which is 21.72% of the geographical area of the country. The State/UTs wise details of forest cover as per ISFR 2021 is given in **Annexure I**.
- (b) As per ISFR 2021, the area covered by Very Dense Forest is 99,779 square kilometre (3.04%), Moderately Dense Forest is 3,06,890 square kilometre (9.33%) and Open Forest is 3,07,120 square kilometre (9.34%).
- (c) As per ISFR 2021, the moderately dense forest cover is 3,06,890 square kilometre. The moderately dense forest cover has decreased by 1582 square kilometre as compared to the previous assessment i.e. ISFR 2019. The Open Forest in the country is 3,07,120 sq km. The Open Forest has increased by 2,621 sq km w.r.t to ISFR 2019. The details of changes in Moderately Dense Forest and Open Forest are given in **Annexure-II**.

(d) For restoring and enhancing India's forest cover, 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 namely Green India Mission to support and supplement the efforts of States and Union Territories. National Mission for a Green India (GIM) is one of the eight Missions outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. It aims at protecting, restoring, and enhancing India's forest cover and responding to Climate Change by undertaking plantation activities in the forest and non-forest areas. GIM activities were started in the FY 2015-16. During the last five FY (2017-18 to 2021-22) a sum of Rs. 500.85 Crores have been released to sixteen States namely Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Sikkim, West Bengal, and one union territory Jammu & Kashmir for creation of plantation over an area of 76587 hectares.

The Ministry is implementing Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) since the year 2020 which envisages creation of 400 Nagar Vans and 200 Nagar Vatika in the country during the period 2020-21 to 2024-25 with an objective to enhance the forest and green cover in the urban and peri-urban areas including biological diversity and provide ecological benefits and improving the quality of life of city dwellers from funds available under National Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA). So far, the Ministry has approved 270 projects under Nagar Van Yojana with the total cost of Rs.238.64 Crore, which includes an amount of Rs. 57.14 Crore for creation of 97 Nagar Van/Vatika during 2022-23.

The Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA fund) are being utilized by States/UTs for taking up various afforestation activities through planting of native species, and forest & wildlife protection activities 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. The details of CAMPA funds utilized by the States/UTs during 2017-18 to 2021-22 are enclosed at **Annexure-III**, and Afforestation taken up utilizing CAMPA fund during 2017-18 to 2021-22 are enclosed at **Annexure-IV**.

Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programs/schemes of line Ministry such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Bamboo Mission, Sub-Mission on Agroforestry etc. and under various schemes of State Government /UT Administration, and by various departments, Non-Government Organizations, Civil Society, Corporate bodies etc. The multi departmental efforts have yielded good results in conserving forest and environment by addressing the problem of deforestation, besides keeping the pace of development, which is evident from the fact that the forest cover has stabilized and has been constantly increasing over the years. As per the latest ISFR 2021, the total forest cover of the country has increased by 12,294 square kilometres in the last seven years (ISFR 2015 to ISFR 2021).

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 42 due for answer on 02.02.2023 regarding 'Measures taken to increase Moderately Dense Forest'

State/UTs details of Forest Cover as per ISFR 2021

(Area in square kilometre)

S. No.	State/UT	Geo-graphical Area (GA)	Total Forest Cover	Percentage of Geographical 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
Total		32,87,469	7,13,789	21.71	1,540	0.22	46,539

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 42 due for answer on 02.02.2023 regarding 'Measures taken to increase Moderately Dense Forest'

Change in Moderately Dense Forest over the last five years

(Area in square kilometre)

Moderately Dense Forest	Area	Change wrt previous Assessment
ISFR 2017	3,08,318	-4,421
ISFR 2019	3,08,472	154
ISFR 2021	3,06,890	-1,582

Change in Open Forest over the last five years

(Area in square kilometre)

Open Forest	Area	Change wrt previous assessment
ISFR 2017	3,01,797	1,674
ISFR 2019	3,04,499	2,702
ISFR 2021	3,07,120	2,621

Annexure-III

Annexure referred to in reply to part (d) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 42 due for answer on 02.02.2023 regarding 'Measures taken to increase Moderately Dense Forest'

Details of CAMPA funds utilized by the States/UTs during 2017-18 to 2021-22

(Rupees in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	Utilisation of CAMPA funds				
		2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.002	0.10	0.01	0.01	0.00
2	Andhra Pradesh	71.09	109.50	98.47	60.96	121.10
3	Arunachal Pradesh	6.69	3.72	3.19	0.00	0.00
4	Assam	33.36	37.14	32.02	22.65	21.48
5	Bihar	33.21	36.46	125.39	183.20	0.13
6	Chandigarh	1.13	1.27	0.00	0.00	5.14
7	Chhattisgarh	199.84	283.64	429.21	651.64	855.55
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Delhi	1.15	1.73	0.03	0.03	4.15
10	Goa	1.50	2.13	6.86	23.39	17.75
11	Gujarat	59.13	152.33	118.5	169.85	168.79
12	Haryana	62.74	122.74	60.68	125.73	213.50
13	Himachal Pradesh	105.22	128.06	88.50	119.48	94.77
14	Jammu & Kashmir	118.25	77.54	113.51	112.61	127.74
15	Jharkhand	137.51	239.46	223.57	214.93	240.99
16	Karnataka	9.37	88.74	104.14	170.48	299.99
17	Kerala	6.02	7.84	0	10.88	16.03
18	Madhya Pradesh	145.53	287.67	343.15	475.64	561.09
19	Maharashtra	194.00	217.39	151.52	236.58	422.43
20	Manipur	19.50	24.85	30.97	27.79	25.09
21	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.01	36.40
22	Mizoram	6.10	8.30	0.00	25.99	17.65
23	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	Odisha	511.83	0.00	556.34	674.99	843.12
25	Punjab	59.19	81.27	64.73	128.59	167.82
26	Rajasthan	175.59	132.82	116.44	192.37	182.13
27	Sikkim	4.48	10.13	39.46	54.84	70.00
28	Tamil Nadu	7.13	4.35	0.56	0.00	0.00
29	Telangana	137.60	213.19	260.60	378.35	488.98
30	Tripura	6.86	12.85	17.38	17.92	24.22
31	Uttar Pradesh	97.66	194.92	180.69	252.19	362.06
32	Uttarakhand	90.16	119.09	124.00	250.01	375.42
33	West Bengal	9.14	25.36	13.53	8.25	12.92
	Total	2310.982	2624.59	3303.45	4611.36	5776.44

Annexure-IV

Annexure referred to in reply to part (d) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 42 due for answer on 02.02.2023 regarding 'Measures taken to increase Moderately Dense Forest'

Details of afforestation taken up utilizing CAMPA fund during 2017-18 to 2021-22

(Area in Hectares)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Afforestation taken up under CAMPA				
		2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.00	4.33	16.54	5.85	0.00
2	Andhra Pradesh	3093.00	4033.00	15829.00	5645.00	5777.00
3	Arunachal Pradesh	3449.96	8716.00	13857.70	0.00	0.00
4	Assam	1020.00	1394.11	2084.32	79.26	1813.34
5	Bihar	236.40	1211.00	1644.08	6356.51	0.00
6	Chandigarh	0.00	0.74	0.09	0.09	0.00
7	Chhattisgarh	5864.86	7210.78	6104.06	4827.93	6748.67
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	47.54	23.02
10	Goa	0.00	10.00	40.00	200.00	200.00
11	Gujarat	847.00	746.00	1922.42	1547.41	6458.55
12	Haryana	0.00	1300	25.36	833.67	2246.00
13	Himachal Pradesh	1382.75	581.69	568.32	876.00	954.36
14	Jammu & Kashmir	31.93	30.88	37.06	67.78	60.05
15	Jharkhand	8073.00	3690.11	14088.25	10714.02	12406.86
16	Karnataka	3521.74	2465.29	1370.36	15780.62	9895.27
17	Kerala	170.00	276.47	0.00	431.59	619.03
18	Madhya Pradesh	3087.67	1119.15	25516.90	37716.06	35846.36
19	Maharashtra	6149.15	832.51	10011.89	1043.03	1684.97
20	Manipur	6930.74	2738.86	337.00	6056.94	2155.00
21	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	803.00	534.00
22	Mizoram	1150.00	351.72	0.00	2536.5	1303.78
23	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	Odisha	3550.00	101132.00	28646.00	48165.00	43956.00
25	Punjab	2728.80	3562.44	5892.98	4769.99	5692.63
26	Rajasthan	7456.8	8533.56	8610.59	12932.85	10744.8
27	Sikkim	234.09	0.00	171.64	106.04	183.98
28	Tamil Nadu	35.40	44.64	2.19	0.00	0.00
29	Telangana	3908.38	5858.07	5350.68	9162.51	12651.16
30	Tripura	653.81	217.89	564.34	582.80	821.86
31	Uttar Pradesh	6506.95	7883.07	14948.53	12644.94	22676.03
32	Uttarakhand	3474.00	2715.00	3222.00	2597.00	2852.00
33	West Bengal	0.00	268.65	97.71	122.42	282.81
	Total	73556.43	166927.96	160960.01	186652.35	188587.53