

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1646
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2025

Indian State of Forest Report, 2023

1646. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a group of ex-civil servants has written to Government challenging the findings of the Indian State of Forest Report, 2023 as 'misleading';
- (b) if so, the details of such representation including the grounds stated for challenge to the Report;
- (c) whether Government has provided a written and detailed response to the challenges raised in the representation; and
- (d) if so, the details of such a response and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) to (d) Forest Survey of India (FSI), 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 the India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The “India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023” released on 21st December, 2024 by the Forest Survey of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India indicates that there is a net increase of 1445.81 square kilometer in forest and tree cover of the country as compared to ISFR 2021. As per ISFR 2023, the total forest and tree cover of the country is 8,27,356.95 square kilometer which is 25.17% of the geographical area of the country. There is an increasing trend of forest cover in the country since last decade.

Ministry has not received any formal representation or letter directly from a group of ex-civil servants addressed to the Government challenging the findings of the Indian State of Forest Report, 2023. However, rejoinders for informing the valued readers in an unbiased manner and presenting the accurate picture of the country's state of the forests, have been issued by the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun on the news articles relating to “the India State Forest Report, 2023” published in the “The Wire” and in “The Telegraph” on 04.02.2025 and 05.02.2025 respectively.
