

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 985
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024

Decrease in Forest Area

985. SHRI BALYA MAMA SURESH GOPINATH MHATRE:

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

- (a) whether a decline has been observed in forest area during the last three years, if so, the plan of the Government to increase forest cover in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has formulated any plan for conservation of forests and rehabilitation of people residing in forest areas;
- (c) if so, the number of people displaced from the forest areas during the last three years; and
- (d) whether necessary action has been taken for rehabilitation of the said displaced people and if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

ANSWER

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

(a) As per latest India State of Forest Report (ISFR) – 2021 published by Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, the total forest cover of the country is 7,13,789 square kilometre which is 21.71% of the geographical area of the country. The forest cover of the country has increased by 5516 square kilometre as compared to that in the ISFR-2017.

(b) to (d) For restoration and conservation of forests, the Government is implementing various schemes and programmes such as National Mission for a Green India (GIM), Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) and Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) etc. These funds support the efforts of the States and UTs for ecological restoration through afforestation in and outside forest areas, forest landscape restoration, habitat improvement, soil and water conservation measures, and protection etc.

Under the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats scheme, the Ministry provides financial assistance to State/UTs for conservation and management of protected areas which also includes components for human-wildlife conflict mitigation and voluntary relocation of villages from National Parks/Sanctuaries and Tiger Reserves. The relocation process are monitored /implemented by the State level monitoring committees and District level implementing committees.

As per information received from States/UTs, 257 villages relocated from the core/critical tiger habitats. The State wise details are enclosed at **Annexure**.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 985 due for answer on 29.07.2024 regarding 'Decrease in Forest Area'

Details of village relocation from Tiger Reserves

Sl. No.	State	No. of villages relocated from the notified Core (CTH) since the inception of the Project Tiger
1	Andhra Pradesh	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3	Assam	0
4	Bihar	0
5	Chhattisgarh	6
6	Jharkhand	0
7	Karnataka	32
8	Kerala	0
9	Madhya Pradesh	109
10	Maharashtra	62
11	Mizoram	1
12	Odisha	5
13	Rajasthan	17
14	Tamil Nadu	6
15	Telangana	0
16	Uttar Pradesh	0
17	Uttarakhand	17
18	West Bengal	2
Total		257