

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2220**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2024

**Forest Land on Lease**

2220. SHRI BALWANT BASWANT WANKHADE:

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

- (a) the total area of forest land in the country, State-wise including Maharashtra State;
- (b) the details of the forest land leased by concerned officers to individual/Institutions/Trusts/Companies/Forest-Institutions for forest or non-forest related purposes; and
- (c) the details of area of total forest land under unauthorised or illegal possession of individuals/Organisations or Companies, State-wise?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organisation under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, the total Recorded Forest Area in the Country is 7,75,288 square kilometer. The State and Union Territory wise detail including the State of Maharashtra is attached as an **Annexure**.
- (b) & (c) The 'land' is a State subject. The forest areas and the legal boundaries thereof are determined and maintained by the concerned State Government/UT Administration. Accordingly, the final decision to assign on lease or allot the forest land is within the domain of the concerned State Government/ UT Administration. However, the prior approval of the Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 is required for using any forest land for non-forestry purposes.

Further, the protection and management of forests is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government /UT Administration, which takes appropriate actions to remove unauthorised/illegal possession of forest land under the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and other State specific laws and Rules made thereunder.

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**Annexure**

**Annexure referred to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. †2220 to be answered on 05.08.2024 on “Forest Land on Lease” by Shri Balwant Baswant Wankhade”**

**Recorded Forest Areas (RFA) in States/UTs as per ISFR-2021**  
(Area in square kilometer)

S. No.	State/ UT		Geographical Area (GA)	RFA (in different categories)			Total RFA (2021)
				Reserved Forest	Protected Forest	Unclassed Forests*	
1	Andhra Pradesh		1,62,968	31,959	5,069	230	37,258
2	Arunachal Pradesh		83,743	12,371	11,857	27,312	51,540
3	Assam		78,438	17,864	0	8,972	26,836
4	Bihar		94,163	693	6,183	566	7,442
5	Chhattisgarh		1,35,192	25,897	24,036	9,883	59,816
6	Delhi		1,483	78	25	0	103
7	Goa		3,702	119	755	397	1,271
8	Gujarat		196,244	14,574	2,898	4,398	21,870
9	Haryana		44,212	249	1,158	152	1,559
10	Himachal Pradesh		55,673	1,883	28,887	7,178	37,948
11	Jharkhand		79,716	4,500	18,922	1,696	25,118
12	Karnataka		191,791	28,690	3,931	5,663	38,284
13	Kerala		38,852	11,522	0	0	11,522
14	Madhya Pradesh		3,08,252	61,886	31,098	1,705	94,689
15	<b>Maharashtra</b>		<b>3,07,713</b>	<b>50,865</b>	<b>6,433</b>	<b>4,654</b>	<b>61,952</b>
16	Manipur		22,327	984	3,254	13,180	17,418
17	Meghalaya		22,429	1,113	12	8,371	9,496
18	Mizoram		21,081	4,499	1,823	1,157	7,479
19	Nagaland		16,579	234	0	8,389	8,623
20	Odisha		1,55,707	36,049	25,133	22	61,204
21	Punjab		50,362	44	1,137	1,903	3,084
22	Rajasthan		3,42,239	12,176	18,543	2,144	32,863
23	Sikkim		7,096	5,452	389	0	5,841
24	Tamil Nadu		1,30,060	20,523	1,053	1,612	23,188
25	Telangana		1,12,077	25,800	1,592	296	27,688
26	Tripura		10,486	3,588	2	2,704	6,294
27	Uttar Pradesh**		2,40,928	11,560	296	5,528	17,384
28	Uttarakhand		53,483	26,547	9,885	1,568	38,000
29	West Bengal		88,752	7,054	3,772	1,053	11,879
30	A & N Islands		8,249	5,613	1,558	0	7,171
31	Chandigarh		114	32	0	3	35
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu		602	203	5	6	214
33	Jammu & Kashmir	Shape file Area*** (54,624)	2,22,236	17,648	2,551	0	20,199
34	Ladakh	Shape file Area*** (1,68,055)		7	0	0	
35	Lakshadweep		30	0	0	0	0
36	Puducherry		490	0	2	11	13
<b>Total</b>			<b>32,87,469</b>	<b>4,42,276</b>	<b>2,12,259</b>	<b>1,20,753</b>	<b>7,75,288</b>

Source: State/UTs Forest Departments

\*Unclassed Forest includes all forest other than Reserve Forest and Protected Forest as reported by State/UTs Forest Departments.

\*\*In case of Uttar Pradesh, the RFA excludes 9,662.764 km of linear plantations along Road, Railway line and Canal.

\*\*\*Area of shape file provided by Survey of India (August, 2021). Notified geographical areas for individual UTs from SOI are awaited.