

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:107

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2015

FOREST LAND

Kumar Shri P.;Patel Smt. Anupriya Singh

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

- (a) the area and percentage of land under forest cover vis-à-vis the total geographical land area, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the forest cover has shown a declining trend and if so, the details and the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the shrinking in forest cover has resulted in host of problems and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to enact a new law for the management including protection, preservation, conservation and growth of forests and if so, the details thereof ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

- (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 107 by Shri P. Kumar and Shrimati Anupriya Patel due for reply on 03.03.2015.

(a) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun carries out assessment of forest cover in the country on a biennial basis using remote sensing data. The information is brought out in the form of India State of Forest Report (ISFR). As per the latest India State of Forest Report-2013, the total forest cover in the country is 6,97,898 square kilometers which is 21.23% of the total geographical area. The details of the area and percentage of land under forest cover vis-à-vis the total geographical land area, State/UT-wise are given in Annexure-I.

(b) & (c) As per India State of Forest Report-2013, there is an overall net increase of 5871 square kilometers in the forest cover of the country as compared with India State of Forest Report-2011. However, while there is an increase in forest cover in some of the States/UTs, there is a decrease in forest cover in some States/UTs. The detailed list showing increase/decrease in forest cover State/UTs wise alongwith the reasons is given in Annexure-II.

(d) In order to increase and improve the forest cover afforestation in the country is taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), National Bamboo Mission (NBM), Green India Mission (GIM) and under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), 13th Finance Commission Grant, different State Plan/ Non- Plan Schemes including externally aided projects. National Afforestation Programme (NAP) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme for afforestation and tree plantation and eco- restoration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country. The Scheme is being implemented through a decentralized mechanism of State Forest Development Agency (SFDA) at State level, Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at Village levels.

The Ministry also provides Grants-in-aid to State Governments to supplement the efforts of the States for forest management and protection. Funds are being provided under Intensification Forest Management Scheme (IFMS). These funds are utilized for patrolling of the forests, establishment of camps, building fire watch towers, creation and maintenance of fire lines, forest fire control, survey and demarcation of forest areas and strengthening forest infrastructure.

(e) There is no proposal at present to enact a new law for the management including protection, preservation, conservation and growth of forests.