

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1159  
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2015  
BARREN FOREST LANDS  
Mohan Shri P. C.

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

- (a) the details of barren forest lands in country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to utilise the barren forest lands; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the action Plan chalked out in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) No report about barren forest lands in the country is available. However, Forest Survey of India has been carrying out assessment of forest cover on biennial basis since 1987 and India State of Forest Report-2013 is the latest in the series. Forest Survey of India has classified the forest cover in different density classes as per details given below:-

Class	Area in square kilometer	Percentage of geographical Area
Forest Cover	83,502	2.54
Very Dense Forest (Canopy Density of 70% and above)		
Moderately Dense Forest (Canopy Density 40% are more and less than 70%)	318,745	9.70
Open Forest (canopy Density of 10% or more and less than 40%)	295,651	8.99
Total Forest Cover	697,898	21.23

In addition to above, degraded forest land having canopy density less than 10% are classified as Scrub. The area under Scrub is reported to be 41,383 square kilometers which is 1.26% of total geographical area of the country.

(b) & (c) There is no specific plan for Scrub area. However, afforestation under various Central and State Sectors Schemes is taken up in such patches of Scrub area which are suitable for planting activity.