

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3502

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2015

Green Cover in Metro Cities

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that forest cover in urban areas has been disappearing very fast and is well below 6 per cent in some metro cities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to expand the green cover in metro cities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase the green cover in major metro cities in the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) No such assessment of forest cover in urban areas for all the metro cities has been done. However, as per India State of Forest Report-2013, the total urban green cover in the country is estimated to be 12,790 square kilometers which is 16.40% of the urban area. This information in India State of Forest Report is available at state level.

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(c), (d) & (e) The development and maintenance of green cover including the protection of trees comes within the purview of Urban local Bodies and Urban Development Authorities. These authorities make efforts to plant trees regularly to enhance the green cover. From time to time city authorities also launch programme for tree plantation.

Further, the Sub-Mission 3 of the Green India Mission aims to enhance tree cover in 0.20 million hectare of Urban and Peri-Urban areas, including institutional lands. The Mission will support urban greening on various categories of land including open spaces/green spaces like parks/wood lots, avenues and in households and Institutional lands belonging/allotted to business/industrial houses and educational institutions, etc. through afforestation.

Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has proposed an urban forestry scheme namely "Nagar Van-Udyan Yojana" on pilot basis. The aim is to develop at least one City Forest, initially on forest land, ranging from 20 hectare to 100 hectare, in cities having Municipal Corporation. The Ministry will provide one time financial support for development of these City Forests. The scheme aims to create 200 City Forests in the country in next five (5) years.

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