

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3470

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2017

Non-Forest Areas

Rajoria Dr. Manoj

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

- (a) the extent of non-forest areas in the country;
- (b) the areas under mining in India both in forest and non-forest areas;
- (c) whether the non-forest area is devoid of any type of bio-diversity; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, a subordinate organization under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change carries out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report. As per the latest report i.e. India State of Forest Report (ISFR) - 2015, the non-forest area in the country is 25, 44,228 square kilometers.

(b) The area of forest land diverted for mining under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 from 25.10.1980 to 04.08.2017 is 135873.86 hectares. The States/UTs wise details are annexed. According to Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) report on "Indian Mineral Industry at a glance" for the year 2014-15, total area of 3, 40,000 hectare, covered under 3868 mining leases in the country, as on 31.03.2015, excluding fuel, atomic and minor minerals.

(c & d) Non-forest areas of the country may also be rich in biodiversity, which includes innumerable taxa in various ecosystems such as sacred grooves, wetlands, coastal & marine ecosystems, agricultural landscapes and community reserves.

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