

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2507**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2018

**Forest Cover**

2507. DR. NARAMALLI SIVA PRASAD:  
SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:

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

- (a) whether there has been an increase in India's forest cover according to the latest State of Indian Forests Report and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the mangrove cover has increased in the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the area under 'very dense forests' and 'mid-dense forests' has decreased and if so, details thereof;
- (d) the States with highest loss of forest cover in the country; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to increase forest cover to 33 percent of total area in the States?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

- (a) Yes, Madam. 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 (ISFR). As per the latest report i.e. ISFR- 2017, the Total Forest and Tree Cover of the country is 8,02,088 square kilometers which is 24.40% of the total geographical area of the country. It shows an increase of 8021 square kilometers over the figure as per the India State of Forest Report 2015 (updated).
- (b) As per India State of Forest Report (ISFR)-2017, there has been an increase of 181 square kilometers in the mangrove cover over same figures in ISFR-2015. The States/UT-wise details of mangrove cover along with change in mangrove area are given in **Annexure I**.
- (c) According to the latest "India State of Forest Report 2017", area under Very Dense Forests (VDF) of the country is 98,158 square kilometers, which is an increase of 9,525 square kilometers as compared to the previous assessment under ISFR -2015 (updated). The area under Moderately Dense Forests (MDF) of the country is 3,08,318 square kilometers which shows a decrease of 4,421 square kilometers as compared to the previous assessment under ISFR 2015 (updated).
- (d) Nine States and three UTs have shown negative changes in the total forest and tree cover. There has been a decrease of 531 square kilometers and 450 square kilometers of Forest and Tree Cover in the States of Mizoram and Nagaland respectively as per the ISFR-2017 in

comparison to that of ISFR-2015. The State-wise changes in Forest and Tree Cover with respect to previous updated assessment (ISFR 2015) is given in **Annexure II**.

- (e) To further increase the forest cover in the country, afforestation programmes are being taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and Green India Mission (GIM) being implemented by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes/funding sources such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) and under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).

National Afforestation Programme (NAP) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for afforestation and eco-restoration of degraded forests and adjoining areas through people's participation 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 level. An amount of Rs. 3778.63 crores has been released to the states to treat an area of 21.78 lakh hectares since inception of this programme in 2000-02 till 2017-18 as on 28.02.2018.

National Mission for a Green India (GIM) is one of the eight Missions outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. It aims at protecting, restoring and enhancing India's forest cover and responding to Climate. GIM activities were started in the Financial Year 2015-16. So far fund amounting to Rs. 157.19 crore has been released under GIM to nine States for carrying out various activities under the mission.

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## Annexure I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2507  
due for answer on 09.03.2018 regarding 'Forest Cover'

## Mangrove Cover Assessment 2017

(Area in sq km)

S. No.	State/UT	Very Dense Mangrove	Moderately Dense Mangrove	Open Mangrove	Total	Change with respect to ISFR 2015
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	213	191	404	37
2.	Goa	0	20	6	26	0
3.	Gujarat	0	172	968	1140	33
4.	Karnataka	0	2	8	10	7
5.	Kerala	0	5	4	9	0
6.	Maharashtra	0	88	216	304	82
7.	Odisha	82	94	67	243	12
8.	Tamil Nadu	1	25	23	49	2
9.	West Bengal	999	692	423	2114	8
10.	A&N Islands	399	169	49	617	0
11.	Daman & Diu	0	0	3	3	0
12.	Puducherry	0	0	2	2	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,481</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>1,960</b>	<b>4,921</b>	<b>181</b>

## Annexure II

Annexure referred to in reply to part (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2507 due for answer on 09.03.2018 regarding 'Forest Cover'

### Forest Cover in States/UTs in India

(area in square kilometers)

State	Geographic Area	Total Forest and Tree cover as per ISFR-2017	Percent of Geographic area	Change in forest cover wrt ISFR 2015 updated	Change Percent
Andhra Pradesh	162968	28,147	17.27	2141	1.31
Arunachal Pradesh	83743	66,964	79.96	-190	-0.23
Assam	78438	28,105	35.83	567	0.72
Bihar	94163	7,299	7.75	45	0.05
Chhattisgarh	135192	55,547	41.09	-12	-0.01
Delhi	1483	192.41	12.97	3.64	0.25
Goa	3702	2,229	60.21	19	0.51
Gujarat	196244	14,757	7.52	47	0.02
Haryana	44212	1,588	3.59	8	0.02
Himachal Pradesh	55673	15,100	27.12	393	0.71
Jammu & Kashmir *	222236	23,241	10.46	253	0.11
Jharkhand	79716	23,553	29.55	29	0.04
Karnataka	191791	37,550	19.58	1101	0.57
Kerala	38852	20,321	52.30	1043	2.68
Madhya Pradesh	308252	77,414	25.11	-12	0.00
Maharashtra	307713	50,682	16.47	-17	-0.01
Manipur	22327	17,346	77.69	263	1.18
Meghalaya	22429	17,146	76.45	-116	-0.52
Mizoram	21081	18,186	86.27	-531	-2.52
Nagaland	16579	12,489	75.33	-450	-2.71
Odisha	155707	51,345	32.98	885	0.57
Punjab	50362	1837	3.65	66	0.13
Rajasthan	342239	16,572	4.84	466	0.14
Sikkim	7096	3,344	47.13	-9	-0.13
Tamil Nadu	130060	26,281	20.21	73	0.06
Telangana	112077	20,419	18.22	565	0.50
Tripura	10486	7,726	73.68	-164	-1.56
Uttar Pradesh	240928	14,679	6.09	278	0.12
Uttarakhand	53483	24,295	45.43	23	0.04
West Bengal	88752	16,847	18.98	21	0.02
A&N Islands	8249	6,742	81.73	-9	-0.11
Chandigarh	114	21.56	18.91	-0.10	-0.09
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	207	42.16	1	0.20
Daman & Diu	111	20.49	18.46	0.88	0.79
Lakshadweep	30	27.10	90.33	0.04	0.13
Puducherry	490	53.67	10.95	-3.28	-0.67
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>32,87,469</b>	<b>708273</b>	<b>21.54</b>	<b>6778</b>	<b>0.21</b>

\* Includes Jammu & Kashmir area outside LoC that is under illegal occupation of Pakistan and China.

