

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 2194**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.09.2020

**National Forest Policy 2018**

2194. SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:  
SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:  
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:  
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:

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

- (a) the total land under the coverage of forest/trees across the country, as on date, State/UT- wise;
- (b) whether the Government drafted a new National Forest Policy (NFP), 2018;
- (c) if so, the details alongwith the aims and objectives thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has elicited comments/ suggestions on the draft NFP, 2018 from various stakeholders and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (e) whether the new National Forest Policy has permitted the public to grow, harvest and market trees on government-owned lands and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the time by which the new NFP will come into force?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)**

- (a) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun 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-2019, the total forest and tree cover in the country is 8, 07, 276 (forest cover:- 7,12,249 (21.67%) tree cover 95,027 (2.89%)) which is 24.56 % of the geographical area of the country. There is an increase of 5,188 square kilometre (forest cover 3976 square kilometre, tree cover 1212 square kilometre) of total forest and tree cover compared to that of ISFR-2017. The State/UT-wise details of forest cover and tree cover are attached as Annexure 1.
- (b) to (f) National Forest Policy, 1988 is the main policy document containing guiding principles for conservation, protection and management of forests in the country.

A draft was prepared to update the existing National Forest Policy, 1988 after wide consultations with all major stakeholders. The draft was circulated to all concerned Central Ministries/Departments and State/UT Governments. The draft was also placed in the public domain in March, 2018 for inviting comments from various stakeholders in the public/private Sectors, NGOs, civil societies, experts and other concerned individuals.

These comments/suggestions were considered and the draft has been appropriately revised in respect of various aspects including improving livelihoods of people based on sustainable management of forests for provision of ecosystem services and ecological security, increasing productivity of forests, promotion of agro-forestry and farm-forestry, addressing Climate Change issues, etc.

The Government has not set any time limit to update the National Forest Policy, 1988. As of now the existing National Forest Policy, 1988 is in operation.

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**Annexure 1**

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2194 DUE FOR 23.09.2020 REGARDING NATIONAL  
FOREST POLICY 2018**

**Forest Cover and Tree Cover in States/UTs as per India State of Forest Report (ISFR)  
(Area in square kilometre)**

<b>States/UTs</b>	<b>Geographical Area</b>	<b>Total Forest Cover 2019</b>	<b>Total tree Cover 2019</b>
Andhra Pradesh	1,62,968	29,137	3,914
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	66,688	848
Assam	78,438	28,327	1,408
Bihar	94,163	7,306	2,003
Chhattisgarh	1,35,192	55,611	4,248
Delhi	1,483	195.44	129
Goa	3,702	2,237	272
Gujarat	1,96,244	14,857	6,912
Haryana	44,212	1,602	1,565
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	15,434	829
Jammu & Kashmir*	2,22,236	23,612	7,944
Jharkhand	79,716	23,611	2,657
Karnataka	1,91,791	38,575	6,257
Kerala	38,852	21,144	2,936
Madhya Pradesh	3,08,252	77,482	8,339
Maharashtra	3,07,713	50,778	10,806
Manipur	22,327	16,847	173
Meghalaya	22,429	17,119	710
Mizoram	21,081	18,006	441
Nagaland	16,579	12,486	362
Odisha	1,55,707	51,619	4,648
Punjab	50,362	1,849	1,592
Rajasthan	3,42,239	16,630	8,112
Sikkim	7,096	3,342	36
Tamil Nadu	1,30,060	26,364	4,830
Telangana	112077	20,582	2,514
Tripura	10,486	7,726	231
Uttar Pradesh	2,40,928	14,806	7,342
Uttarakhand	53,483	24,303	841
West Bengal	88,752	16,902	2,006
A&N Islands	8,249	6,743	41
Chandigarh	114	22.03	25
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	207	28
Daman & Diu	111	20.49	5
Lakshadweep	30	27.10	0.29
Puducherry	490	52.41	23
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>32,87,469</b>	<b>7,12,249</b>	<b>95,027</b>

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