

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UN-STARRED QUESTION NO: 1124**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.09.2020

**Forest Cover**

1124. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWAR:

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

- (a) the ratio of total land under forest cover to the infrastructure such as roads, buildings, bridges, tracks, etc. in major urban areas;
- (b) whether total land under forest cover is decreasing, if so, the status of forest cover in 2010 *vis-a-vis* 2019, State-wise;
- (c) whether any regulation exists for maintaining a set ratio between the two in urban areas;
- (d) if so, whether the given ratio is accurately maintained in urban cities; and
- (e) if not, whether Government is planning to make such a regulation to ensure the same?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) There is no prescribed ratio of land under forest cover to total urban infrastructure such as roads, buildings, bridges, tracks, etc. in major urban areas. The Urban and Regional Development Plan Formulation and Implementation Guidelines (URDPFI), 2014 of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs prescribes that about 12-14% of the total area should be kept for recreation use (including forest, parks, playgrounds and other open spaces for congregation) in the small and medium towns and about 14-16% in large cities and Metropolitan Towns.
- (b) No, Sir.  
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 Reports (ISFR). As per ISFR 2011, the total forest cover in the country was 6,92,027 square kilometre. Between ISFR-2011 and ISFR-2019, an increase of 20,222 square kilometre of forest cover has been observed. The State/UT-wise details of forest cover in 2011 and 2019 are given in **Annexure**.
- (c) to (e) As mentioned in part (a), the ratio between land under forest/open green (recreation) and other uses is prescribed in the URDPFI Guidelines, which is advisory in nature. The maintenance of ratio comes within the purview of Urban Local Bodies and Urban Development Authorities.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ANNEXURE

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Un-starred Question No. 1124  
due for answer on 18.09.2020 regarding 'Forest Cover'**

**States/UTs wise Forest Cover & Forest Cover change as per ISFR -2011 and 2019**

(Area in square kilometre)

State/UTs	Geographic Area	Forest Cover (ISFR 2011)	Forest Cover (ISFR 2019)	Forest Cover Change between (ISFR 2011& 2019)
Andhra Pradesh	1,62,968	46,389	49,719	3,330
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	67,410	66,688	-722
Assam	78,438	27,673	28,327	654
Bihar	94,163	6,845	7,306	461
Chhattisgarh	1,35,192	55,674	55,611	-63
Delhi	1,483	176.20	195.44	19
Goa	3,702	2,219	2,237	18
Gujarat	1,96,244	14,619	14,857	238
Haryana	44,212	1,608	1,602	-6
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	14,679	15,434	755
Jammu & Kashmir	2,22,236	22,539	23,612	1,073
Jharkhand	79,716	22,977	23,611	634
Karnataka	1,91,791	36,194	38,575	2,381
Kerala	38,852	17,300	21,144	3,844
Madhya Pradesh	3,08,252	77,700	77,482	-218
Maharashtra	3,07,713	50,646	50,778	132
Manipur	22,327	17,090	16,847	-243
Meghalaya	22,429	17,275	17,119	-156
Mizoram	21,081	19,117	18,006	-1,111
Nagaland	16,579	13,318	12,486	-832
Odisha	1,55,707	48,903	51,619	2,716
Punjab	50,362	1,764	1,849	85
Rajasthan	3,42,239	16,087	16,630	543
Sikkim	7,096	3,359	3,342	-17
Tamil Nadu	1,30,060	23,625	26,364	2,739
Telangana	1,12,077	*	*	*
Tripura	10,486	7,977	7,726	-251
Uttar Pradesh	2,40,928	14,338	14,806	468
Uttarakhand	53,483	24,496	24,303	-193
West Bengal	88,752	12,995	16,902	3,907
A&N Islands	8,249	6,724	6,743	19
Chandigarh	114	17	22	5
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	211	207	-4
Daman & Diu	111	6.15	20.49	14
Lakshadweep	30	27.06	27.10	0
Puducherry	490	50.06	52.41	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>32,87,469</b>	<b>6,92,027</b>	<b>7,12,249</b>	<b>20,222</b>

\* Andhra Pradesh forest cover figure & Telangana forest cover is combined together to calculate the forest cover change.