

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1071**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2020

**Forest Cover in North-East**

1071. SHRI ADHIKARI DEEPAK (DEV):  
SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO:

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

- (a) whether forest cover in the country has increased during the last three years, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the forest cover in North-East and the tribal areas is decreasing, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the desired target of 33 per cent forest cover including timeline proposed to achieve the target?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a)&(b) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry 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 ISFR 2019, there is an increase of 3976km<sup>2</sup> in forest cover in the country over that of the ISFR 2017. The State/UTs wise change in forest cover is given in **Annexure I**.

There is an overall increase in the forest cover in the country as well as in tribal districts. However, some decline in forest cover in North East States and a few tribal districts has been observed in the ISFR-2019 as compared to ISFR-2017, due to various reasons such as shifting cultivation, developmental activities such as mining, construction of dams, road and railway network, etc. Details of forest cover in North Eastern States and tribal districts are given in **Annexure II** and **Annexure III**, respectively.

- (c) To increase the forest cover in the country, the Ministry is taking several initiatives. These include ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Ministry such as National Afforestation Programme, National Mission for a Green India and Development of

Wildlife Habitats. The recently promulgated Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules, 2018 also contain provisions for taking up assisted natural regeneration, artificial regeneration and silvicultural operations in forests which contribute to increase in forest cover. The Ministry also supports school nursery and urban forestry programmes through people's participation.

Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes/funding sources such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana and under the schemes/plans of State/UT Governments.

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## Annexure I

## Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1071 due for answer on 07.02.2020 regarding 'Forest Cover in North-East'

S.No	State/UT	Geo. Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	As per ISFR 2017 (km <sup>2</sup> )	As per ISFR 2019 (km <sup>2</sup> )	Change in forest cover w.r.t ISFR 2017 (km <sup>2</sup> )	Change w.r.t ISFR 2017 (%)	
1	Andhra Pradesh	1,62,968	28147	29,137	990	3.52	
2	Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	66964	66,688	-276	-0.41	
3	Assam	78,438	28105	28,327	222	0.79	
4	Bihar	94,163	7299	7,306	7	0.1	
5	Chhattisgarh	1,35,192	55547	55,611	64	0.12	
6	Delhi	1,483	192.41	195.44	3.03	1.57	
7	Goa	3,702	2229	2,237	8	0.36	
8	Gujarat	1,96,244	14757	14,857	100	0.68	
9	Haryana	44,212	1588	1,602	14	0.88	
10	Himachal Pradesh	55,673	15100	15,434	334	2.21	
11	Jammu & Kashmir #	UT of J&K*	53,258*	23241	21,122	348	1.68
		UT of Ladakh*	1,69,421*		2,490	23	0.93
		Total	2,22,236		23,612	371	1.6
12	Jharkhand	79,716	23553	23,611	58	0.25	
13	Karnataka	1,91,791	37550	38,575	1,025	2.73	
14	Kerala	38,852	20321	21,144	823	4.05	
15	Madhya Pradesh	3,08,252	77414	77,482	68	0.09	
16	Maharashtra	3,07,713	50682	50,778	96	0.19	
17	Manipur	22,327	17346	16,847	-499	-2.88	
18	Meghalaya	22,429	17146	17,119	-27	-0.16	
19	Mizoram	21,081	18186	18,006	-180	-0.99	
20	Nagaland	16,579	12489	12,486	-3	-0.02	
21	Odisha	1,55,707	51345	51,619	274	0.53	
22	Punjab	50,362	1837	1,849	12	0.65	
23	Rajasthan	3,42,239	16572	16,630	58	0.35	
24	Sikkim	7,096	3344	3,342	-2	-0.06	
25	Tamil Nadu	1,30,060	26281	26,364	83	0.32	
26	Telangana	1,12,077	20419	20,582	163	0.8	
27	Tripura	10,486	7726	7,726	0	0	
28	Uttar Pradesh	2,40,928	14679	14,806	127	0.87	
29	Uttarakhand	53,483	24295	24,303	8	0.03	
30	West Bengal	88,752	16847	16,902	55	0.33	
31	A & N Islands	8,249	6742	6,743	1	0.01	
32	Chandigarh	114	21.56	22.03	0.47	2.18	
33	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	207	207	0	0	
34	Daman & Diu	111	20.49	20.49	0	0	
35	Lakshadweep	30	27.1	27.1	0	0	
36	Puducherry	490	53.67	52.41	-1.26	-2.35	
<b>Total</b>		<b>32,87,469</b>	<b>7,08,273</b>	<b>7,12,249</b>	<b>3,976</b>	<b>0.56</b>	

## Annexure II

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1071 due for answer on 07.02.2020 regarding 'Forest Cover in North-East'

(area in square kilometre)					
			<b>Forest cover in North East States as per ISFR 2017 and 2019</b>		
<b>S.No.</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Geo. Area</b>	<b>ISFR 2017</b>	<b>ISFR 2019</b>	<b>Change w.r.t ISFR 2017</b>
1	Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	66,964	66,688	-276
2	Assam	78,438	28,105	28,327	222
3	Manipur	22,327	17,346	16,847	-499
4	Meghalaya	22,429	17,146	17,119	-27
5	Mizoram	21,081	18,186	18,006	-180
6	Nagaland	16,579	12,489	12,486	-3
7	Sikkim	7,096	3,344	3,342	-2
8	Tripura	10,486	7,726	7,726	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,62,179</b>	<b>1,71,306</b>	<b>1,70,541</b>	<b>-765</b>

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1071 due for answer on  
07.02.2020 regarding 'Forest Cover in North-East'  
Forest Cover in Tribal Areas as per ISFR 2017 and 2019**

(area in square kilometre)

S.No.	State/UT	Tribal Districts				Net Change w.r.t. 2017
		No.	Geographical area	Forest Cover as per ISFR 2017	Forest Cover as per ISFR 2019	
1	Andhra Pradesh	5	44,849	11,418	12,226	808
2	Arunachal Pradesh	16	83,743	66,964	66,688	-276
3	Assam	19	49,489	11,832	12,073	241
4	Chhattisgarh	11	92,645	39,950	39,988	38
5	Gujarat	9	49,885	6,966	6,869	-97
6	Himachal Pradesh	3	26,764	3,259	3,262	3
7	Jharkhand	17	58,677	17,419	17,441	22
8	Karnataka	5	26,054	13,279	13,616	337
9	Kerala	9	27,207	14,820	15,411	591
10	Madhya Pradesh	24	1,52,132	47,414	47,463	49
11	Maharashtra	12	1,44,233	30,537	30,443	-94
12	Manipur	9	22,327	17,346	16,847	-499
13	Meghalaya	7	22,429	17,146	17,119	-27
14	Mizoram	8	21,081	18,186	18,006	-180
15	Nagaland	11	16,579	12,489	12,486	-3
16	Odisha	12	86,091	34,206	34,331	125
17	Rajasthan	5	29,601	5,274	5,278	4
18	Sikkim	4	7,096	3,344	3,342	-2
19	Tamil Nadu	6	25,607	5,700	5,671	-29
20	Telangana	3	42,217	13,039	13,154	115
21	Tripura	4	10,486	7,726	7,726	0
22	Uttar Pradesh	1	7,680	1,274	1,273	-1
23	West Bengal	12	69,403	14,595	14,650	55
24	A & N Islands	3	8,249	6,742	6,743	1
25	D & N Haveli	1	491	207	207	0
26	Daman & Diu	1	72	11	11	-0.05
27	Lakshadweep	1	30	27	27	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>11,25,117</b>	<b>4,21,170</b>	<b>4,22,351</b>	<b>1,181</b>

