

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 887  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2021

**Forest Coverage**

887. SHRI RAJ KUMAR CHAHAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the forest cover of the six districts namely, Agra, Mathura, Firozabad, Etah, Hathras and Bharatpur of the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) is very meager;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the forest and tree cover in the above districts as per the Forest Survey of India in the previous decade;
- (d) the details of the initiatives taken by the Government for agroforestry/increasing forest cover in the said districts; and
- (e) whether any financial incentives for promoting agroforestry in TTZ area are being provided by the Government and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. 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). The latest in the series is ISFR-2019. As per ISFR-2019, details of forest cover along with percentage in six districts of the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) is given in **Annexure-I**.

The National Forest Policy, 1988 provide that the national goal should be to have a minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. In the hills and in mountainous regions, the aim should be to maintain two-third of the area under such cover in order to prevent erosion and land degradation and to ensure the stability of the fragile eco-system.

- (c) As per ISFR, details of forest cover of six districts of the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) in the previous decades are given in **Annexure-II**. District-wise information of tree cover is not estimated by Forest Survey of India. Forest Survey of India estimates State-wise tree cover by using of inventory data of forest and trees outside forest collected under National Forest Inventory Programme. The State-wise tree cover for the States in the TTZ (Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan) is given in **Annexure-III**.
- (d) & (e) To increase the forest and tree cover in the country, afforestation programmes are being taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme and Green India Mission being implemented by the 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, PradhanMantriKrishiSinchayeeYojana, Compensatory Afforestation Funds and under concerned State/UT schemes/plans. Under National Afforestation Programme, an amount of Rs. 9.58 lakhs has been released to three districts namely Agra, Firozabad and Hathras in Uttar Pradesh State for maintenance during the year 2017-18 and an amount of Rs. 3.00 lakhs has been released to two districts namely Agra, Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh for maintenance during the year 2018-19. No fund released during the year 2019-20.

Further, Uttar Pradesh Forest Department has informed that under Sub-Mission on Agroforestry scheme implemented by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, an assistance of Rs. 35.00 per plants distributed over 4 year (Rs. 14.00 + Rs.7.00+ 7.00 + 7.00) for plantation on Farm Bunds and Rs. 28.00 per plants distributed over 4 year (Rs. 11.20+ Rs. 5.60 + 5.60+ 5.60) for Tree Plantation with Crops.

The details of plantation in TTZ districts under agroforestry are as follows:-

S. No.	District	Plantations on Farm Bunds (Nos.)	Tree Plantation with Crops (Nos.)
1	Firozabad	76,000	50,000
2	Hathras	18,214	7,000

Rajasthan Forest Department is providing plant seedlings suitable for agroforestry to the local people at Government prescribed nominal rate. The details of area planted in last five year for Bharatpur District are as follows:-

Financial Year	Plantation Area (in Hectare)
2016-17	353
2017-18	60
2018-19	165
2019-20	200
2020-21 (upto December)	728.32
<b>Total</b>	<b>1506.32</b>

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Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 887 due for answer on 05.02.2021 regarding 'Forest Coverage'

Forest Cover of six districts of the Taj Trapezium Zone as per India State of Forest Report 2019 (ISFR)

(Area in Square kilometre)

Six Districts of Taj Trapezium Zone	Geo- graphic Area	Total Forest Cover	Percentage to the geographical area
Agra (Uttar Pradesh)	4,041	262.62	6.50
Mathura (Uttar Pradesh)	3,340	57.04	1.71
Firozabad (Uttar Pradesh)	2,407	58.60	2.43
Etah (Uttar Pradesh)	2,431	26.18	1.08
Hathras (Uttar Pradesh)	1,840	23.00	1.25
Bharatpur (Rajasthan)	5,066	230.27	4.55

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 887 due for answer on 05.02.2021 regarding 'Forest Coverage'

Forest Cover of six districts of the Taj Trapezium Zone in the previous decade as per India State of Forest Report (ISFR)

(Area in Square kilometre)

Six Districts of Taj Trapezium Zone	Geo- graphic Area	Total Forest Cover As Per ISFR 2011	Total Forest Cover As Per ISFR 2013	Total Forest Cover As Per ISFR 2015	Total Forest Cover As Per ISFR 2017	Total Forest Cover As Per ISFR 2019
Agra (Uttar Pradesh)	4,041	276	273	273	272	262.62
Mathura (Uttar Pradesh)	3,340	60	58	58	60	57.04
Firozabad (Uttar Pradesh)	2,407	47	48	48	49	58.60
Etah (Uttar Pradesh)	2,431	99	98	98	31	26.18
Hathras (Uttar Pradesh)	1,840	23	23	23	23	23.00
Bharatpur (Rajasthan)	5,066	238	243	240	229	230.27

**Annexure -III**

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 887 due for answer on 05.02.2021 regarding 'Forest Coverage'**

State wise Tree Cover of the Taj Trapezium Zone in the previous decade as per India State of Forest Report (ISFR)

(Area in Square kilometre)

<b>States</b>	<b>Geo-graphic Area</b>	<b>Tree Cover As Per ISFR 2011</b>	<b>Tree Cover As Per ISFR 2013</b>	<b>Tree Cover As Per ISFR 2015</b>	<b>Tree Cover As Per ISFR 2017</b>	<b>Tree Cover As Per ISFR 2019</b>
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	240,928	7,382	6,895	7,044	7,442	7,342
<b>Rajasthan</b>	342,239	8,272	7,860	8,269	8,266	8,112