

## FOREST LAND

3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2015

LSQ \*107

SHRI P.KUMAR  
SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL

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

- (a) the area and percentage of land under forest cover *vis-à-vis* the total geographical land area, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the forest cover has shown a declining trend and if so, the details and the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the shrinking in forest cover has resulted in host of problems and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to enact a new law for the management including protection, preservation, conservation and growth of forests and if so, the details thereof ?

### MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement referred to in reply to part (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 107 by Shri P. Kumar and Shrimati Anupriya Patel due for reply on 03.03.2015.**

- (a) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun carries out assessment of forest cover in the country on a biennial basis using remote sensing data. The information is brought out in the form of India State of Forest Report (ISFR). As per the latest India State of Forest Report-2013, the total forest cover in the country is 6,97,898 square kilometers which is 21.23% of the total geographical area. The details of the area and percentage of land under forest cover *vis-à-vis* the total geographical land area, State/UT-wise are given in **Annexure-I**.
- (b) &(c) As per India State of Forest Report-2013, there is an overall net increase of 5871 square kilometers in the forest cover of the country as compared with India State of Forest Report-2011. However, while there is an increase in forest cover in some of the States/UTs, there is a decrease in forest cover in some States/UTs. The detailed list showing increase/decrease in forest cover State/UTs wise alongwith the reasons is given in **Annexure-II**.
- (d) In order to increase and improve the forest cover afforestation in the country is taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), National Bamboo Mission (NBM), Green India Mission (GIM) and under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), 13th Finance Commission Grant, different State Plan/ Non- Plan Schemes including externally aided projects. National Afforestation Programme (NAP) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme for afforestation and tree plantation and eco-restoration of degraded forests and adjoining areas 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 levels.  
  
The Ministry also provides Grants-in-aid to State Governments to supplement the efforts of the States for forest management and protection. Funds are being provided under Intensification Forest Management Scheme (IFMS). These funds are utilized for patrolling of the forests, establishment of camps, building fire watch towers, creation and maintenance of fire lines, forest fire control, survey and demarcation of forest areas and strengthening forest infrastructure.

- (e) There is no proposal at present to enact a new law for the management including protection, preservation, conservation and growth of forests.

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question  
No. 107 due for answer on 03.03.2015 regarding 'Forest Land'.**

**Forest Cover in States/UTs in India as per India State of Forest Report (ISFR)- 2013**

States/UTs	Geographical Area	Total Forest Cover 2013	(area in km <sup>2</sup> )
			Percentage of Total Forest Cover to the total geographical area
Andhra Pradesh	275069	46116	16.77
Arunachal Pradesh	83743	67321	80.39
Assam	78438	27671	35.28
Bihar	94163	7291	7.74
Chhattisgarh	135191	55621	41.14
Delhi	1483	179.81	12.12
Goa	3702	2219	59.94
Gujarat	196022	14653	7.48
Haryana	44212	1586	3.59
Himachal Pradesh	55673	14683	26.37
Jammu & Kashmir	222236	22538	10.14
Jharkhand	79714	23473	29.45
Karnataka	191791	36132	18.84
Kerala	38863	17922	46.12
Madhya Pradesh	308245	77522	25.15
Maharashtra	307713	50632	16.45
Manipur	22327	16990	76.10
Meghalaya	22429	17288	77.08
Mizoram	21081	19054	90.38
Nagaland	16579	13044	78.68
Odisha	155707	50347	32.33
Punjab	50362	1772	3.52
Rajasthan	342239	16086	4.70
Sikkim	7096	3358	47.32
Tamil Nadu	130058	23844	18.33
Tripura	10486	7866	75.01
Uttar Pradesh	240928	14349	5.96
Uttarakhand	53483	24508	45.82
West Bengal	88752	16805	18.93
Andaman & Nicobar	8249	6711	81.36
Chandigarh	114	17.26	15.14
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	213	43.38
Daman & Diu	112	9.27	8.28
Lakshadweep	32	27.06	84.56
Puducherry	480	50.06	10.43
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3287263</b>	<b>697898</b>	<b>21.23</b>

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) & (c) of the Lok Sabha Starred  
Question No. 107 due for answer on 03.03.2015 regarding 'Forest Land'.**

**Reasons for increase and decrease in the forest cover of the Country.**

(Area in square kilometer)

States/UTs	Change in forest cover	Reason
Andhra Pradesh	-273	Main reason for decrease in forest cover has been the open cast coal mining, rotational felling of fast growing species, and encroachment on forest lands.
Arunachal	-89	Decrease in forest cover of the state is due to shifting cultivation practices and biotic pressure

Pradesh		in many of the districts. However in some areas regeneration of bamboos and other miscellaneous species and plantation by State Forest Department (SFD) is also observed.
Assam	-2	Encroachment, biotic pressure and shifting cultivation practice
Bihar	446	Afforestation activities, inclusion of Trees Outside Forests (TOF)
Chhattisgarh	-53	Developmental activities, mining, encroachment
Delhi	3.61	Plantation
Gujarat	34	Change in forest cover is attributed to conservation efforts and afforestation within and outside recorded forest areas.
Haryana	-22	Developmental activities, rotational felling in agroforestry area
Himachal Pradesh	4	Plantation and conservation activities
Jammu and Kashmir	-1	Developmental activities
Jharkhand	496	Plantation, inclusion of Trees Outside Forests (TOF) areas
Karnataka	-62	Rotational felling
Kerala	622	Afforestation and conservation activities, inclusion of Trees Outside Forests (TOF) area
Madhya Pradesh	-178	Encroachment, mining, increase in submergence area
Maharashtra	-14	Encroachment
Manipur	-100	Decrease in forest cover of the state is due to shifting cultivation practices and biotic pressure in major parts of the state.
Meghalaya	13	Conservation leading to regeneration and afforestation
Mizoram	-63	Main reason for the change in forest cover is shifting cultivation, soil erosion and biotic pressure.
Nagaland	-274	Main reason for decrease in forest cover is biotic pressure, particularly the shortening of shifting cultivation cycle.
Odisha	1444	Main reason for the change in forest cover is due to conservation initiatives by State Forest Department and through Van Sanrakshan Samiti (VSS). Better availability of satellite data.
Punjab	8	Plantation
Rajasthan	-1	Biotic pressure and mining
Sikkim	-1	Earthquake induced landslide leading to loss of forest
Tamil Nadu	219	Main reason for increase in forest cover is better protection and conservation of forests leading to increase in Moderately Dense Forests (MDF) and Open Forests (OF) areas. Inclusion of Trees Outside Forests (TOF)
Tripura	-111	Main reason for change in forest cover is shifting cultivation widely practiced across the state.
Uttar Pradesh	11	Plantation and conservation initiatives
Uttarakhand	12	Conservation and afforestation activities
West Bengal	3810	Increase in the forest cover of the state is mainly due to coppice growth and afforestation inside the forests, growth of commercial plantations and shade trees in tea gardens, inclusion of Trees Outside Forests (TOF) areas
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-13	Loss in mangrove vegetation
Chandigarh	0.26	Plantation and conservation activities
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2	Plantation and conservation activities
Daman & Diu	3.27	Plantation and conservation activities
Lakshadweep	0.06	Plantation and conservation activities
Puducherry	0.06	Plantation and conservation activities
<b>Total</b>	<b>5871</b>	