

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 62
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024

Loss of Forest Cover

62 SHRI SELVAGANAPATHI T.M.:

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

- (a) whether the country has lost close to 6 million trees in agricultural lands during the year from 2019 to 2022;
- (b) whether the Forest Survey of India conducts regular surveys of tree cover both inside and outside forests but only publishes data on the changes in acreage and not individual trees;
- (c) whether the tree cover has increased in 2021 over 2019 in the country according to a report by the Forest Survey of India;
- (d) whether 56% of India is covered by farmland and 22% by forest; and
- (e) whether the changes in tree cover in the country have been largely overlooked, if so, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) As per the Indian State of Forest Report (ISFR) published by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, there is a net increase of tree cover outside the forests between 2019 to 2021.

(b) FSI undertakes regular assessment of country's forest resources through nation-wide mapping of forest cover and sample plots based national forest inventory. The results of the area under Forest Cover and Trees outside Forests are published in the ISFR.

(c) to (e) As per the ISFR, the tree cover in 2019 was 95,027 square kilometer and it was 95,748 square kilometer in 2021 which shows that tree cover has increased by 721 square kilometer between 2019 to 2021. As per the information received from Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the area covered under agriculture land is 18,01,120 square kilometer. The FSI in its ISFR 2021 has reported the area of 7,13,789 square kilometer covered by forests which accounts for 21.71% of the total geographical area of the Country.
