

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3461**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.08.2025

**Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu**

3461. THIRU D M KATHIR ANAND:

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

- (a) whether the natural forest cover is depleting over the last decade and if so, the status of forest cover in the country and the funds allocated during the last five years, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to notify various Wildlife Sanctuaries as big cat reserves in view of the reports of leopard and tiger sightings and habitations;
- (c) whether the State Governments have approached the Central Government in this regard, if so, the response of the Government thereto; and
- (d) whether the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has accorded any proposal for creation of new tiger reserves in Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, carries out the assessment of forest and tree cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in the India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The forest cover assessment is a wall-to-wall mapping exercise based on remote sensing supported by intensive ground verification and field data from the National Forest Inventory.

As per ISFR 2023, the forest cover of the country is 7,15,342.61 square kilometer which is 21.76% of the total geographical area of the country. In the last ten years, the forest cover of the country has increased from 6,98,712.36 square kilometer to 7,15,342.61 square kilometer. Thus there has been an increase of 16,630.25 square kilometer in the forest cover of the country between ISFR 2013 and ISFR 2023. The State/UT wise details of the forest cover during last ten years is given in Annexure-I.

The protection, conservation and management of forest is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. There are legal frameworks for the protection and management of forest of the country which include, the Indian Forest Act, 1927; the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980; the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and the State Forest Acts and Rules. Further, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate

Change issues advisories to State Governments/UT Administrations to protect forest and trees.

The Ministry provides technical and financial support to the States /UTs for protection, conservation and management of the forests in the country. The funds provided under the various schemes support the efforts of States and Union Territories to enhance forest and tree cover through ecological restoration measures such as afforestation within and outside forest areas, forest landscape restoration, habitat improvement, soil and water conservation, protection activities, and other related interventions.

This includes funds from the Central Government under various schemes and programmes such as National Mission for a Green India (GIM), Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme (FPM), Nagar Van Yojana (NVY), Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, and Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI). The state-wise funds released by the Central Government under above schemes during the last five years are given in Annexure-II(a) to (e).

Further, a plantation campaign “एक पेड़ माँ के नाम #Plant4Mother” has been launched on the occasion of World Environment Day 2024 and in the current year also to undertake plantation activities across the country. This campaign follows the “Whole of Government” and “Whole of Society” approach with participation of all stakeholders for increasing the green cover in the country. The campaign has contributed large scale plantation aiding the enhancement of green cover in the country.

- (b) to (d) The proposals received from the State Governments have been considered as per provisions of the Section 38V of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The National Tiger Conservation Authority under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has given in-principle approval to Sunabeda and Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuaries in the State of Odisha; Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary in the State of Bihar; Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary in the State of Rajasthan; Malai Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Sanctuary in the State of Karnataka, and Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary in the State of Arunachal Pradesh for notification as a Tiger Reserve.

No such proposal has been received from the State Government of Tamil Nadu.

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**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3461 due for answer on 11.08.2025 regarding Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu asked by Thiru D M Kathir Anand**

**State/UT wise details of decadal change in Forest Cover  
between 2013 and 2023 as per ISFR 2023**

**(In square kilometer)**

Sl.No.	State/UT	Forest Cover (2013)	Forest Cover (2023)	Decadal Change in Forest Cover between 2013 & 2023
1	Andhra Pradesh	26,043.53	30,084.96	4,041.43
2	Arunachal Pradesh	66,966.09	65,881.57	-1,084.52
3	Assam	27,564.90	28,313.55	748.65
4	Bihar	7,283.55	7,532.45	248.90
5	Chhattisgarh	55,606.96	55,811.75	204.79
6	Delhi	180.32	195.28	14.96
7	Goa	2,219.00	2,265.72	46.72
8	Gujarat	14,507.77	15,016.64	508.87
9	Haryana	1,583.38	1,614.26	30.88
10	Himachal Pradesh	14,683.00	15,580.35	897.35
11	Jharkhand	23,815.38	23,765.78	-49.60
12	Karnataka	36,170.68	39,254.27	3,083.59
13	Kerala	18,383.95	22,059.36	3,675.41
14	Madhya Pradesh	77,522.00	77,073.44	-448.56
15	Maharashtra	50,632.00	50,858.53	226.53
16	Manipur	16,961.16	16,585.46	-375.70
17	Meghalaya	17,241.48	16,966.84	-274.64
18	Mizoram	18,978.16	17,990.46	-987.70
19	Nagaland	13,017.35	12,222.47	-794.88
20	Odisha	50,544.71	52,433.56	1,888.85
21	Punjab	1,790.78	1,846.09	55.31
22	Rajasthan	16,086.00	16,548.21	462.21
23	Sikkim	3,358.00	3,358.40	0.40
24	Tamil Nadu	24,245.21	26,450.22	2,205.01
25	Telangana	19,956.62	21,179.04	1,222.42
26	Tripura	7,948.65	7,584.77	-363.88
27	Uttar Pradesh	14,359.72	15,045.80	686.08
28	Uttarakhand	24,508.00	24,303.83	-204.17
29	West Bengal	1,7101.98	16,832.33	-269.65
30	A&N Islands	6,711.00	6,732.92	21.92
31	Chandigarh	17.26	25.00	7.74
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	219.96	225.62	5.66
33	Jammu & Kashmir	20,948.27	21,346.39	398.12
34	Ladakh	1,478.00	2,285.92	807.92
35	Lakshadweep	27.02	27.06	0.04
36	Puducherry	50.52	44.31	-6.21
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6,98,712.36</b>	<b>7,15,342.61</b>	<b>16,630.25</b>

**Annexure-II(a)**

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3461 due for answer on 11.08.2025 regarding Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu asked by Thiru D M Kathir Anand**

**State-wise details of funds released under the Green India Mission  
during the last five years (2020-21 to 2024-25)**

**(Rs. In Crores)**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>States</b>	<b>Total Funds released</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	2.02
2	Arunachal Pradesh	34.71
3	Chhattisgarh	7.88
4	Haryana	47.73
5	Himachal Pradesh	17.09
6	Jammu & Kashmir	36.72
7	Karnataka	17.05
8	Kerala	-
9	Madhya Pradesh	68.44
10	Maharashtra	-
11	Manipur	31.03
12	Mizoram	90.25
13	Odisha	64.82
14	Punjab	11.44
15	Sikkim	36.28
16	Uttarakhand	147.38
17	West Bengal	1.52
18	Uttar Pradesh	5.43
	<b>Total</b>	<b>619.79</b>

**Annexure-II(b)**

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3461 due for answer on 11.08.2025 regarding Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu asked by Thiru D M Kathir Anand**

**Details of fund released to State/UT's under Centrally Sponsored Forest Fire Prevention & Management Scheme (FPM) during the year 2020-21 to 2024-25  
(Rs in Lakh)**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>States/UTs</b>	<b>Funds released</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	289.41
2	Arunachal Pradesh	672.13
3	Assam	0
4	Bihar	416.41
5	Chhattisgarh	292.45
6	Gujarat	616.84
7	Goa	76.175
8	Haryana	17.52
9	Himachal Pradesh	615.215
10	Jharkhand	466.23
11	Karnataka	633.67
12	Kerala	1264.16
13	Madhya Pradesh	2253.84
14	Maharashtra	1425.44
15	Manipur	708.83
16	Meghalaya	211.04
17	Mizoram	357.59
18	Nagaland	568.49
19	Odisha	1917.22
20	Punjab	47.52
21	Rajasthan	308.56
22	Sikkim	288.715
23	Tripura	252.725
24	Tamil Nadu	739.24
25	Telangana	369.56
26	Uttar Pradesh	340.84
27	Uttarakhand	971.2
28	West Bengal	211.56
29	A & N Islands	60
30	Chandigarh	55.69
31	D&N Haveli and Daman & Diu	0
32	Jammu & Kashmir	0
33	Lakshadweep	0
34	Delhi	0
35	Puducherry	43.4
36	Ladakh	0
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>16491.67</b>

**Annexure-II(c)**

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3461 due for answer on 11.08.2025 regarding Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu asked by Thiru D M Kathir Anand**

**State/UT-wise details of funds released for the projects  
under Nagar Van Yojana in last five years**

**(Rs in crores)**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>State/UT</b>	<b>Total funds released</b>
1	Andaman & Nicobar	0.56
2	Andhra Pradesh	99.14
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0.80
4	Assam	1.70
5	Bihar	4.42
6	Chandigarh	0.13
7	Chhattisgarh	6.90
8	Goa	2.05
9	Gujarat	7.43
10	Haryana	4.49
11	Himachal Pradesh	4.86
12	Jammu & Kashmir	15.09
13	Jharkhand	18.11
14	Karnataka	22.15
15	Kerala	9.50
16	Madhya Pradesh	55.23
17	Maharashtra	5.09
18	Manipur	1.44
19	Meghalaya	2.43
20	Mizoram	21.72
21	Nagaland	21.97
22	Odisha	18.71
23	Punjab	5.94
24	Rajasthan	26.88
25	Sikkim	10.86
26	Tamil Nadu	12.23
27	Telangana	24.73
28	Tripura	5.05
29	Uttar Pradesh	29.13
30	Uttarakhand	2.90
31	West Bengal	2.77
	<b>Total</b>	<b>444.43</b>

**Annexure-II(d)**

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3461 due for answer on 11.08.2025 regarding Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu asked by Thiru D M Kathir Anand

**Details of funds released to State/ UT Government  
under CSS-‘Development of Wildlife Habitats’ during last five years**

(Rs in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of States/UTs	Total funds released
1	A& N Islands	160.89
2	Andhra Pradesh	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	2726.1
4	Assam	2008.7
5	Bihar	952.39
6	Chandigarh	63.27
7	Chhattisgarh	735.23
8	Goa	116.54
9	Gujarat	1333.16
10	Haryana	576.527
11	Himachal Pradesh	765.5
12	Jammu & Kashmir	224.178
13	Jharkhand	364.61
14	Karnataka	3516.77
15	Kerala	3082.196
16	Madhya Pradesh	2669.21
17	Maharashtra	1673.231
18	Manipur	816.56
19	Meghalaya	1427.17
20	Mizoram	1377.3
21	Nagaland	4124.06
22	Odisha	4502.02
23	Rajasthan	1403.56
24	Sikkim	1180.45
25	Tamil Nadu	1893.41
26	Telangana	36.59
27	Uttar Pradesh	1433.23
28	Uttarakhand	2031.874
29	West Bengal	2237.64
30	Puducherry	5.22
31	Lakshadweep	1536.66
32	Delhi	0
33	Tripura	786.21
34	Ladakh UT	316.29
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>46317.87</b>

**Annexure-II(e)**

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3461 due for answer on 11.08.2025 regarding Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu asked by Thiru D M Kathir Anand**

**State/UT Wise details of funds released  
under MISHTI since inception in 2023-24**

**(Rs in Crore)**

<b>S. No</b>	<b>State/UT</b>	<b>Total funds released as 1st instalment</b>
1	Gujarat	6.20
2	West Bengal	3.74
3	Kerala	0.666
4	Puducherry	1.94
5	Andhra Pradesh	4.709
6	Odisha	0.7027
<b>Total</b>		<b>17.9617</b>

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