

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1550
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2026

Illegal Deforestation

1550. SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that illegal deforestation in the country putting an adverse effect on the environment;
- (b) if so, the details of the percentage of forest area reduction during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to stop deforestation; and
- (d) the details of the discussion held with the concerned State Governments regarding deforestation as on date and during the last three years and the current year?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b) The Protection and management of forest are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. There are legal frameworks for the protection and management of forest resources of the country which include, the Indian Forest Act 1927, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980, and the State Forest Acts, Tree Preservation Acts and Rules, etc. The State Governments /UT Administrations take appropriate actions to protect forest and tree resources and address deforestation under the provisions made under these Acts/ Rules.

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 and tree cover of the country is 8,27,356.95 square kilometre which is 25.17% of the geographical area of the country. As per latest ISFR 2023, the total forest and tree cover of the country has increased by 1,445.81 square kilometre as compared to the last assessment of ISFR 2021. The State/UT wise details of forest cover in the country is given in **Annexure**.

(c) and (d) The Ministry provides technical and financial support to the States and Union Territories through various schemes and programmes of the Central Government for increasing forest and tree cover, including protection, conservation and sustainable management of forests in the country. These include, inter alia, the National Mission for a Green India (GIM), Nagar Van Yojana (NVY), Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI), Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, and forest fire prevention and management schemes. In

addition, States and Union Territories implement State-specific afforestation, reforestation and forest conservation schemes in accordance with their ecological, climatic and geographic conditions.

Further, a plantation campaign “एक पेड़ माँ के नाम #Plant4Mother” has also 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 to large scale plantation aiding the enhancement of green cover in the country.

Matters relating to protection, management and deforestation of forests are reviewed through existing institutional mechanisms. Monitoring and review of activities are carried out through approval of Annual Plans of Operation and examination of progress and utilisation reports submitted by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations under various schemes and programmes. Implementation of activities and compliance with applicable Acts and Rules are undertaken by the respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

Annexure referred to in reply of (a)& (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1550 due for answer on 09.02.2026 regarding 'Illegal Deforestation' asked by Shri Arun Kumar Sagar.

State/UT wise details of Forest Cover from ISFR 2021 to ISFR 2023

(Area in Square kilometer)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Geographical area	Forest Cover as per ISFR 2021	Forest Cover as per ISFR 2023	Change in Forest Cover between ISFR 2021 & ISFR 2023
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,62,968.00	30,223.62	30,084.96	-138.66
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	83,743.00	65,972.74	65,881.57	-91.17
3.	Assam	78,438.00	28,325.31	28,313.55	-11.76
4.	Bihar	94,163.00	7,403.26	7,532.45	129.19
5.	Chhattisgarh	1,35,192.00	55,830.88	55,811.75	-19.13
6.	Delhi	1,483.00	195.36	195.28	-0.08
7.	Goa	3,702.00	2,267.22	2,265.72	-1.50
8.	Gujarat	1,96,244.00	14,836.57	15,016.64	180.07
9.	Haryana	44,212.00	1,628.22	1,614.26	-13.96
10.	Himachal Pradesh	55,673.00	15,525.62	15,580.35	54.73
11.	Jharkhand	79,716.00	23,706.97	23,765.78	58.81
12.	Karnataka	1,91,791.00	39,106.57	39,254.27	147.70
13.	Kerala	38,852.00	21,925.94	22,059.36	133.42
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3,08,252.00	77,444.98	77,073.44	-371.54
15.	Maharashtra	3,07,713.00	50,913.00	50,858.53	-54.47
16.	Manipur	22,327.00	16,640.29	16,585.46	-54.83
17.	Meghalaya	22,429.00	16,996.84	16,966.84	-30.00
18.	Mizoram	21,081.00	17,748.73	17,990.46	241.73
19.	Nagaland	16,579.00	12,274.36	12,222.47	-51.89
20.	Odisha	1,55,707.00	52,281.67	52,433.56	151.89
21.	Punjab	50,362.00	1,846.54	1,846.09	-0.45
22.	Rajasthan	3,42,239.00	16,632.01	16,548.21	-83.80
23.	Sikkim	7,096.00	3,353.21	3,358.40	5.19
24.	Tamil Nadu	1,30,060.00	26,511.18	26,450.22	-60.96
25.	Telangana	1,12,077.00	21,279.46	21,179.04	-100.42
26.	Tripura	10,486.00	7,680.08	7,584.77	-95.31
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2,40,928.00	14,927.37	15,045.80	118.43
28.	Uttarakhand	53,483.00	24,326.81	24,303.83	-22.98
29.	West Bengal	88,752.00	16,782.11	16,832.33	50.22
30.	A&N Islands	8,249.00	6,736.94	6,732.92	-4.02
31.	Chandigarh	114.00	23.80	25.00	1.20
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli#	602.00	225.94	225.62	-0.32
33.	Daman & Diu#				
34.	Jammu & Kashmir	2,22,236.00	21,262.84	21,346.39	83.55
35.	Ladakh		2,278.55	2,285.92	7.37
36.	Lakshadweep	30.00	27.06	27.06	0.00
37.	Puducherry	490.00	44.15	44.31	0.16
	Grand Total	32,87,469.00	7,15,186.20	7,15,342.61	156.41

#From ISFR 2021 onwards Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu have been combined into one UT.