GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.62
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.11.2019

Environmental degradation due to deforestation

62.   SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

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

(a) details of deforestation during the last three years, State-wise; and
(b) details of afforestation programme to compensate the said problem?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b)Deforestation is caused due to various factors which might include overexploitation, overgrazing, urbanization and diversion for other purposes*etc*. TheBiennial edition of India State of Forest Report (ISFR) by Forest Survey of India (FSI) of the ministry, comprehensively, brings out the district-wise and state-wise details of forest and tree cover along with type of forest including open forest etc. This repository of data *inter alia* serves as the source to target the potential area for afforestation under various schemes.

It is a practice that whenever permission for tree felling is given, planting of 2 to 5 times more number of trees and its growth is ensured and compensatory afforestation is carried out in lieu of forest land diversion. Moreover, to compensate the problem of deforestation and to improve and increase the forest & tree cover in the country, afforestation programmes are taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the ministry such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and National Mission for a Green India (GIM). The ministry also supports school nursery and urban forestry programmes through people's participation. The fund under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), *inter-alia*, is also used in plantation activity including compensatory afforestation. In addition plantations are also done by various departments, Non-government organizations, civil society, corporate bodies etc.

The multi departmental efforts has yielded good results in conserving environment by addressing the problem of deforestation, besides keeping the pace of development, which is evident from the fact that the forest cover has stabilized and has been constantly increasing over the years. As per ISFR 2015(updated), the forest and tree cover has increased by 4902.6 square kilometer (sq.km) over 2013 assessment while as per ISFR, 2017, the forest and tree

cover has increasedby 8021 sq km. of total forest and tree cover ascompared to that of ISFR, 2015. The list of States/UTs where increasing forest cover has been recorded in ISFR, 2017 over 2015 assessmentis attached as annexure. A study by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), USA has also stated that India and China are leading the increase in greening on land.Implementation of various afforestation measures and concerted efforts of various agencies in this regard are expected to maintain the increasing trend in forest and tree cover.

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Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) & (b) of the RajyaSabhaUnStarred Question No. 62 due for reply on 18.11.2019 by Shri Sanjay Singh regarding'Environmental degradation due to deforestation'.

Statement showing list of States/UTs where forest cover has increased as per India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2015 and ISFR, 2017

(Area in sq.km)

State/UT	Geographical Area	Forest Cover		Change in Forest Cover(Area
		ISFR, 2015	ISFR, 2017	
Andhra Pradesh	162968	26006	28147	2141
Assam	78438	27538	28105	567
Bihar	94163	7254	7299	45
Delhi	1483	188.77	192.41	3.64
Goa	3702	2210	2229	19
Gujarat	196244	14710	14757	47
Haryana	44212	1580	1588	8
Himachal Pradesh	55673	14707	15100	393
Jammu & Kashmir	222236	22988	23241	253
Jharkhand	79716	23524	23553	29
Karnataka	191791	36449	37550	1101
Kerala	38852	19278	20321	1043
Manipur	22327	17083	17346	263
Orissa	155707	50460	51345	885
Punjab	50362	1771	1837	66
Rajasthan	342239	16106	16572	466
Tamil Nadu	130060	26208	26281	73
Telangana	112077	19854	20419	565
Uttar Pradesh	240928	14401	14679	278
Uttarakhand	53483	24272	24295	23
West Bengal	88752	16826	16847	21
Dadra & N. Haveli	491	206	207	1
Daman & Diu	111	19.61	20.49	0.88
Lakshadweep	30	27.06	27.1	0.04
Grand Total	**3287469**	**383666.44**	**391958**	**8291.56**

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