

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF : ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 178
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.06.2019
Cutting of trees

178. Shri G.C. Chandrashekhar

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

- (a) whether despite having strict provisions for cutting of trees, the number of trees are decreasing rapidly in country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any study has been conducted to ascertain the reasons for failure in this regard in spite of increase in plantation of trees, if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether data about cutting down of trees and violation of norms in this regard is available with Government, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) other steps being taken by Government in this regard during last three years?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) No, Sir. Forest survey of India, Dehradun an organization under this Ministry, carries out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report. As per India State of Forest Report 2017, there is an increase of 8, 021 sq km in the total forest and tree cover of the country, compared to the previous assessment in 2015. The total forest and tree cover is 24.39 per cent of the geographical area of the country.

The reasons for increase in forests and tree cover can be attributed to better conservation strategies, afforestation and reforestation activities. Besides many afforestation schemes, the compensatory afforestation has been carried out over 3528.06 sq km between 2006-2018 which has also led to increase in forest and tree cover.

(d) The data regarding cutting of trees is maintained by the State Government. India ranks 8th among top 10 countries reporting greatest annual forest area gain as reported in Global Forest Resource Assessment 2015 published by Food and Agriculture Organization.

(e) Protection and management of trees is primarily the responsibility of State /Union Territory Governments. There are strong legal frameworks for protection and management of tree resources of the country which include the National Forest Policy,1988, Indian Forest Act, 1927, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and State Forest Acts/State Specific Tree Preservation Acts and Rules, etc. The State /UT Government take appropriate actions in accordance with the provisions made under these acts/ rules for regulating felling of trees.

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