

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 109
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024

Diversion of Forest Land

109. SHRI T R BAALU:

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

- (a) the details of total extent of forest land diverted for non-forestry purposes since 2019, State wise;
- (b) the details of projects approved in National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries during the said period;
- (c) the details of total area of Compensatory Afforestation completed during the last five years and the funds spent thereon; and
- (d) the details of the study conducted on the impact on wildlife due to non-forestry and industrial activities in National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries and policy corrections taken up to ensure the health of these forest wealth?

ANSWER

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

- (a) As per the information available on PARIVESH portal, a total 95724.99 hectare of forest land has been approved for non-forestry use under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 from April 2019 to March 2024. The State/UT-wise detail is given in **Annexure-I**.
- (b) Details of the proposals recommended in the Wild life sanctuaries and National Parks is as follows:

Year	Number of proposals recommended
2019-20	71
2020-21	85
2021-2022	154
2022-2023	150
2023-2024	421

- (c) The details of total area of Compensatory Afforestation completed during the last five years is annexed at **Annexure-II** and the funds spent thereon is annexed at **Annexure-III**.
- (d) Proposals for developmental activities within National Parks, Sanctuaries, Tiger Reserves, Tiger Corridors and those activities requiring environmental clearance inside Eco-sensitive Zones (ESZ) around National Parks and Sanctuaries are forwarded by State Governments for consideration by the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life (SCNBWL). The proposals are forwarded after thorough scrutiny by the State Government and recommendations of the State Board for Wild Life. The SCNBWL, which also includes eminent ecologists, conservationists and environmentalists, takes informed decisions on the proposals placed for its consideration and also suggests the mitigation measures.

Apart from this the Government has taken a number of steps to protect and conserve wildlife and endangered species of flora and fauna. These include:

- i. Financial assistance to States/Union Territories under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for development of wildlife and its habitat, for activities like creation and maintenance of water holes for wild animals in Protected Areas, soil and moisture conservation measures, establishment of anti-poaching camps, strengthening wildlife veterinary care, eradication of weeds, creation and maintenance of fire lines, awareness generation.
- ii. Providing financial assistance to States/UTs for the recovery programme of critically endangered species under the component Recovery programme for saving of critically endangered species and habitats under CSS- 'Development of Wildlife Habitats'. A total of 22 critically endangered species have been identified under this programme.
- iii. Creation of Sanctuaries, National Parks, Conservation Reserves, Community Reserves, and Tiger Reserves, for conservation and protection of wildlife and its habitats.
- iv. Rare and endangered species of animals found in India like Snow Leopard, Olive Ridley Turtles, Great Indian Bustard, Gangetic Dolphin, Dugong, etc. have been listed in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby providing the highest degree of protection.
- v. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for punishment for violation of its provisions. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence.
- vi. Law enforcement authorities in the States/UTs maintain strict vigil against poaching of wild animals.
- vii. Wild Life Crime Control Bureau has been set up to gather intelligence about poaching and unlawful trade in wild animals and animal articles

- and to achieve inter-state and trans-boundary coordination in enforcement of wildlife laws.
- viii. The Ministry has formulated the 3rd 'National Wildlife Action Plan' for a period of 2017 to 2031 to save wild animals in the country. The Plan focuses on landscape approach in conservation of all wildlife irrespective of where they occur. It also gives special emphasis to recovery of threatened species of wildlife while conserving their habitats which includes terrestrial, inland aquatic, coastal and marine ecosystems.
 - ix. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change released the National Marine Turtle Action Plan (2021-2026) in January 2021, which provides for priority actions for conservation of marine turtles and their habitat.
 - x. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change released the Vulture Conservation Action Plan (2020-2025) in November 2020, which provides for conservation measures for vultures and their habitats.
 - xi. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change released the Advisory for management of Human Wildlife Conflict in February 2021, which also provides for improvement of wildlife habitats.
 - xii. A National Action Plan for conservation of migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway has been launched.
 - xiii. Local communities have been involved in conservation of migratory species e.g. Amur Falcon in State of Nagaland; Whale Shark in Gujarat; Dugong in Tamil Nadu; Olive Ridley Turtles in Odisha.
 - xiv. India is a signatory to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). India has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on conservation of Siberian Cranes, Marine Turtles, Dugongs and Raptors.
 - xv. In order to further strengthen conservation of wildlife, Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) are notified around National Parks and Sanctuaries under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
 - xvi. In order to reduce the impact of linear infrastructure projects like railway lines on wildlife, the Ministry has developed and mandated the implementation of guidelines named 'Eco-friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure on Wildlife'. These guidelines suggest suitable mitigation measures for linear infrastructure projects taking into consideration factors such as terrain, animal behavior patterns, animal migration routes, and other relevant parameters.
 - xvii. The Ministry has also issued guidelines regarding proposals for 4G connectivity within National Parks and Sanctuaries.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Un-Starred Question No. 109 due for reply on 22.07.2024 by Shri T R BAALU regarding 'Diversion of Forest Land'

Details showing State/UT wise forest area diverted for non-forestry purpose under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980

Category: All Categories		During the Period : 01/04/2019 to 31/03/2024	
S. No.	STATE / UT	No. of Proposal	Area Approved (in Ha.)
1	Andaman and Nicobar	19	102.98
2	Andhra Pradesh	47	1593.97
3	Arunachal Pradesh	75	8744.78
4	Assam	31	1719.17
5	Bihar	265	1532.36
6	Chandigarh	2	0.10
7	Chhattisgarh	41	3229.78
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu	34	53.38
10	Delhi	12	116.92
11	Goa	21	280.45
12	Gujarat	1512	7402.97
13	Haryana	1451	1855.29
14	Himachal Pradesh	328	2058.14
15	Jammu and Kashmir	55	577.30
16	Jharkhand	95	4303.34
17	Karnataka	118	1838.19
18	Kerala	99	156.15
19	Madhya Pradesh	909	22614.74
20	Maharashtra	226	2713.60
21	Manipur	32	1540.95
22	Meghalaya	7	33.99
23	Mizoram	21	460.92
24	Odisha	146	13621.95
25	Punjab	1073	1912.42
26	Rajasthan	274	3869.63
27	Sikkim	42	212.55
28	Tamil Nadu	86	126.66
29	Telangana	116	1637.25
30	Tripura	108	1181.35
31	Uttar Pradesh	976	6184.64
32	Uttarakhand	468	3323.48
33	West Bengal	42	725.58
Grand Total		8731	95724.99

Source : <https://parivesh.nic.in>

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of the Lok Sabha Un-Starred Question No. 109 due for reply on 22.07.2024 by Shri T R BAALU regarding 'Diversion of Forest Land'

**State/UT wise details of the Compensatory Afforestation during last five years
(Area in Ha)**

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	14.04	10.01	0.00	36.56	114.50
2	Andhra Pradesh	1473.17	509.04	491.69	845.04	643.62
3	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	1830.7	12193.93	4458.67	2857.828
4	Assam	Nil	793.578	120.62	0	385.56
5	Bihar	189.08	1661.506	Nil	1321.09	1321.09
6	Chandigarh	0	0	25.29	0.14	Nil
7	Chhattisgarh	2827.04	865.33	420.30	442.74	94.60
8	Delhi	0	47.54	23.02	70.58	37.34
9	Goa	40.00	200.00	200.00	299.00	470.00
10	Gujarat	1922.42	1019.85	3733.55	4629.97	2174.26
11	Haryana	293.77	1240.02	1870.22	1608.83	
12	Himachal Pradesh	525.07	876.00	947.00	885.00	888.00
13	Jammu & Kashmir	962	3110.92	704	1288	
14	Jharkhand	3687.253	2734.493	3324.858	3202.833	2789.83
15	Karnataka	615.16	194.53	522.77	715.01	611.14
16	Kerala	Nil	34.51	78.71	65	117.26
17	Ladakh	0	0	0	0	0
18	Madhya Pradesh	4019.90	3823.06	3520.00	6286.41	5447.01
19	Maharashtra	2741.536	600.96	218.55	182.278	513.39
20	Manipur	0.00	666.94	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	Meghalaya	Nil	25.69	286.74	199.52	2857.83
22	Mizoram	Nil	1236.50	1303.78	29.96	Nil
23	Odisha	3399.60	3802.20	3501.45	4594.88	1628.66
24	Punjab	1321.98	311.978	644.995	800.383	940.384
25	Rajasthan	2610.59	2147.85	808.52	444.79	1365.40
26	Sikkim	171.64	106.64	183.98	94.67	44.78
27	Tamil Nadu	2.19	Nil	Nil	82.57	Nil
28	Telangana	4414.51	4178.16	2490.07	2052.71	551.12
29	Tripura	484.34	182.80	391.86	566.40	669.85
30	Uttar Pradesh	682.71	1070.08	1011.08	1538.98	1231.64
31	Uttarakhand	3222.45	2597.28	2852.05	2415	1697.22
32	West Bengal	97.71	122.42	282.03	106.18	139.92
	Total	35718.16	36000.59	42151.06	39263.19	29440.39

Annexure-III

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of the Lok Sabha Un-Starred Question No. 109 due for reply on 22.07.2024 by Shri T R BAALU regarding ‘Diversion of Forest Land’

**Detail of the funds spent on Compensatory Afforestation during last five years
(₹in Crore)**

S. No.		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1	Funds Spent on Compensatory Afforestation	3389.1	4909.87	5896.31	6149.85	5205.12