

Total forest and tree cover reached over 8.9 lakh sq. Kilometres: Govt in Lok Sabha

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As per India's State of the Forest Report 2021, the total forest and tree cover has reached over eight lakh nine thousand sq. Kilometres, which is 24 per cent of its total geographical area. This denotes an increase of 2261 sq km, compared to the previous assessment made in 2019. Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ashwini Kumar Choubey said this in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today. The government also said the country's non-fossil fuel-based cumulative electric power installed capacity stood at 174 Giga Watts as of December last year.

He said as per the updated Nationally Determined Contribution submitted under the Paris Agreement, the targets include reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45 per cent from the 2005 levels and achieving about 50 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.

Stating that the Centre is implementing the National Action Plan on Climate Change, the Minister said 34 states and UTs have prepared State Action Plans on Climate Change, consistent with the objectives of the National Action Plan.