

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3428
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2018

Decline of mangroves in Sunderbans

3428. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Sunderbans is one of the biggest mangrove forests in the world;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the growth of mangrove forests in Sunderbans is lagging behind as compared to the growth of mangrove forests in other parts of the country;
- (c) if so, the reasons behind this slow growth of mangrove forests in the Sunderbans; and
- (d) efforts being made to accelerate the growth of mangrove forests in Sunderbans?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Forest Survey of India (FSI) has been assessing the mangrove cover in the country by remote sensing through satellite data analysis along with Geographic Information System (GIS) platform on a biennial basis. The mangrove cover in India is spread over an area of 4,921 sq. km. Sunderbans in West Bengal accounts for almost half of the total area under mangroves in India.

According to India State of Forest Report 2017, published by the Forest Survey of India, the mangrove cover in West Bengal has increased by 8 sq. km. in year 2017 as compared to the mangrove cover assessed in year 2015. Details are given below:

District Name	Area under Mangrove cover as per India State of Forest Report		Increase in Mangrove Cover (sq. km.)
	2015 (sq. km.)	2017 (sq. km.)	
Purba Medinipur	3	4	1
North 24 Pargana	26	26	0
South 24 Pargana	2,077	2084	7
Total	2,106	2,114	8

(d) The Government has taken steps to sustain and enhance mangrove ecosystems in the country through promotional and regulatory measures. The promotional measures are being implemented through a centrally sponsored scheme on conservation and management of mangroves and coral reefs.

Regulatory measures are implemented through: Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification (2011) and the Island Protection Zone (IPZ) Notification 2011 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972; the Indian Forest Act, 1927; the Biological Diversity Act, 2002; and rules under these acts as amended from time to time.
