

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2454
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2023

Deterioration of forest land due to flash floods and heavy rains

2454. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA:

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

- (a) the quantum of deterioration of forest land caused by flash floods and heavy rains during the last two years in the country, the State-wise details thereof;
- (b) the quantum of effect of such deterioration of forest land on the environment;
- (c) whether Government has made any planning or going to frame any policy to assess the quantum of loss caused by such flash floods and heavy rains, the details thereof; and
- (d) the quantum of monetary assistance rendered by the Central Government to States in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) to(d) Though the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change does not have any details about the quantum of deterioration of forest land caused by flash floods and heavy rains during the last two years in the country, an assessment of forest cover of the country is being carried out by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun since 1987 and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR).

Further, Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India, published by Space Applications Centre (SAC), Indian Space Research Organisation, Ahmedabad, provides the extent of land degradation and desertification in India, state-wise area of degraded land, which is helpful in planning and implementation of schemes aimed at restoration of land by providing important data and technical inputs. An online portal has been developed with the help of Space Application Center(SAC), Ahmedabad for visualization of degraded area of land with the processes causing degradation.

Central Water Commission (CWC) is the nodal Organisation entrusted with the task of flood forecasting & early flood warnings in the country. Presently, CWC issues flood forecasts for 338 forecasting stations (200 river level forecast stations & 138 dam/ barrage inflow forecast stations). These stations cover 20 major river basins in 23 States & 2 Union Territories. In order to provide more lead time to the local authorities to plan evacuation of people & take other remedial measures, Central Water Commission (CWC) has developed basin wise flood forecasting model based on rainfall-runoff mathematical modelling for 5 days advance flood forecast advisory at its forecasting stations.

Further, Government has been taking concerted efforts for monitoring , interpretation of data and providing specific alerts for hazards in specific locations through its various organisations/ agencies like National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), State Disaster Management Authorities, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing , Indian Space Research Oraganisation, Indian Institute of Science etc.
