

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 1332
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023

Decreasing forest cover

1332. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH:
SMT. RANJEET RANJAN:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the decreasing forest cover in the North East Region (NER) since 2019, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to increase the forest cover in the country; and
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to try and understand the social life of forests as a part of the Forest Survey of India's methodology and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun carries out the assessment of forest cover biennially, since 1987 and the findings are published as India State of Forest Report (ISFR). As per ISFR 2021, the forest cover in the northeast region of the country has decreased by 1,020 square kilometer since 2019. The details of forest cover in the northeast region since 2019 is given at **Annexure-I**. The loss in the forest cover of north-east region of the country may be attributed mainly to natural calamities, anthropogenic pressure and developmental activities.

(b) The Ministry provides technical and financial assistance to States/UTs under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely, Green India Mission (GIM), Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme, Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA), Nagar Van Yojana and other schemes of line ministries to increase the forest and tree cover of the country.

(c) Forests contribute significantly as source of sustenance and livelihood for the tribal communities. The Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun regularly assesses the forest cover across the country. Further, bamboo contributes to the subsistence needs of forest dwellers, a majority of whom are tribals, whose livelihoods depend on harvesting, processing, value addition and selling of bamboo products. Accordingly, FSI undertakes detailed assessments of the bamboo resources of the country and are published in the State of Forest Report.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1332 due for answer on 14.12.2023 regarding 'Decreasing forest cover'

Change in Forest Cover of North Eastern States from ISFR 2019 to ISFR 2021

(Area in square kilometer)

State	Forest Cover in ISFR 2019 (a)	Forest Cover in ISFR 2021 (b)	Change in Forest Cover from ISFR 2019 to ISFR 2021 (b)- (a)
Arunachal Pradesh	66,688	66,431	-257
Assam	28,327	28,312	-15
Manipur	16,847	16,598	-249
Meghalaya	17,119	17,046	-73
Mizoram	18,006	17,820	-186
Nagaland	12,486	12,251	-235
Sikkim	3,342	3,341	-1
Tripura	7,726	7,722	-4
Total	1,70,541	1,69,521	-1,020