

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3739
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.04.2025

Land lost in Assam due to soil erosion

3739. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH:

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

- (a) the details of land lost in Assam due to soil erosion during the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that since 1954, Assam has lost 4.3 lakh hectares of land to erosion, which is 7 per cent of the State's area;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any steps have been taken by Government to protect the ecosystem of Assam considering 40 per cent of Assam's area (close to 32 lakh hectares) is flood-prone; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c) Soil erosion is a dynamic process caused both by natural and anthropogenic factors, which results in loss of land and property and overall degradation of land. As per the Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India – 2021, published by the Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad, an area of 8,34,530 ha was reported to be affected by Desertification/Land Degradation (DLD).

As per the above mentioned Atlas, total area affected by DLD in Assam during the periods 2003-2005 and 2011-2013 was reported to be 5,72,215 ha and 7,16,596 ha respectively. The significant drivers of desertification / land degradation in Assam include waterlogging, water erosion, vegetation degradation, etc.

- (d) & (e) The Govt. of India assists the efforts of the State Governments / UT Administrations by providing technical and financial assistance for management of flood risks in critical areas. The flood management and anti-erosion measures/ interventions are formulated and implemented by the concerned State Government as per priority.

In order to strengthen the structural measures towards flood management, the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India provides central assistance to States / UTs to undertake works related to river management, flood control, anti-erosion measures, drainage development, etc., under the "Flood Management and Border Areas Programme" (FMBAP). A total of 142 flood management projects of the

Government of Assam have been supported under the FMBAP with a central assistance of Rs. 1557.04 Crore.

Besides, as per the report received from the State Forest Department, Govt. of Assam; tree plantations covering an area of 46,399 ha have been taken up under different schemes / programs / initiatives to protect the eco-systems in the State during the period 2015-2024.
