

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 384**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2025

**Decline in forest cover**

384. SMT. SAGARIKA GHOSE:

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

- (a) the reason behind the decline in forest cover in the North-Eastern States of the country;
- (b) steps taken by Government to ensure mitigation of deforestation in the States; and
- (c) funds allocated by the Centre to the States to assist in afforestation in the last five years?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a)to(c) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change carries out the assessment of forest cover biennially since 1987 and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR).

There is an increasing trend of forest cover in the country since last decade. As per ISFR 2023, there is a net increase of the forest cover to the extent of 16,630 square kilometers between 2013 and 2023 assessment. However, there has been increase in forest cover in some of states and decrease in some of states of the country and the decline in forest cover in some of the North Eastern States can be attributed to the shifting cultivation practices, human activities and natural calamities, etc.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issues advisories to State Governments/UT Administrations to protect forests and trees, and mitigation of deforestation as per the provisions of the law. Further, in order to protect forests, various measures are taken by the State Forest Departments, which include survey and demarcation of forest areas, fixing of pillars along forest boundary and regular patrolling by field staff.

In addition, the Ministry provides technical and financial support to the States /UTs for protection, conservation and management of forests in the country. For afforestation, the Government has provided funds under various schemes and programmes such as National Mission for a Green India (GIM), Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, and Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) and also under

Annual Plan of Operations of CAMPA. Over the last five years, Rs 624.69 Crore has been released under GIM; Rs 452.04 Crore under Development of Wildlife Habitats; Rs 308.87 Crore under Nagar Van Yojana and Rs 38,502.21 Crore under Annual Plan of Operations under CAMPA. These funds supports the efforts of the States and UTs for ecological restoration through afforestation in and outside forest areas, forest landscape restoration, habitat improvement, soil and water conservation measures, and protection etc.

Afforestation is also carried out by the States/ UTs under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).

\*\*\*