

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1489
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.02.2026

Expansion of forest and tree cover

1489. SHRI HARSH VARDHAN SHRINGLA:

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

- (a) the change in India's forest and tree cover recorded in the latest India State of Forest Report in the North East Region including West Bengal;
- (b) the area brought under afforestation and plantation through central schemes during the last three years in the region;
- (c) whether satellite-based monitoring systems are being used to verify plantation outcomes and survival rates; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, carries out the assessment of forest and tree cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in the India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The forest cover assessment is a wall-to-wall mapping exercise based on remote sensing supported by intensive ground verification and field data from the National Forest Inventory.

As per ISFR 2023, the total forest and tree cover of the North East Region including West Bengal is 1,94,165.15 square kilometer as compared to 1,94,466.72 square kilometer in ISFR 2021. The current assessment shows a decrease of forest and tree cover of 301.57 square kilometer in the North East Region including West Bengal.

(b) The Ministry provides technical and financial support to States and Union Territories through various schemes and programmes of the Central Government for enhancement of forest cover including protection, conservation and management of forests in the country. This includes the National Mission for a Green India (GIM) and Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI).

During the last three years, under the Green India Mission (GIM), plantation and eco-restoration activities have been undertaken over an area of 11,565 hectares in the North Eastern Region, including West Bengal. Further, under the MISHTI initiative, launched on 5 June 2023 and implemented from FY 2024-25 onwards, mangrove afforestation and restoration activities have been approved for over 478 hectares of degraded mangrove areas along the coast in the State of West Bengal.

Further, a plantation campaign “एक पेड़ माँ के नाम # Plant4Mother” has also been launched on the occasion of World Environment Day 2024 and in the current year also to undertake plantation activities across the country. This campaign follows the “Whole of Government” and “Whole of Society” approach with

participation of all stakeholders for increasing the green cover in the country. The campaign has contributed large scale plantation aiding the enhancement of green cover in the country.

(c) & (d) Assessment of plantation outcomes and plant survival rates is carried out mainly through field-based verification by the concerned State Governments. Remote sensing and satellite imagery are used, as appropriate, for monitoring changes in vegetation cover.
