

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2025
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.12.2017

Mangrove Cover

2025. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN:

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

- (a) whether the study conducted through remote sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) confirms that the mangrove cover of Indian Sundarban is decreasing rapidly;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken to check the ill effects of climate change and increase in sea level in order to protect mangrove cover of the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (c) The Forest Survey of India (FSI) has been assessing the mangrove cover in the country by remote sensing through satellite data analysis along with Geographic Information System (GIS) platform on a biennial basis. The mangrove cover is spread over an area of 4,740 sq. km in India. Sundarban in West Bengal accounts for almost half of the total area under mangroves in India.

According to India State of Forest Report 2015, published by the Forest Survey of India, the mangrove cover in West Bengal has increased by 9 sq. km. as compared to the 2013 assessment. Details are given below:

District Name	Area under Mangrove cover as per India State of Forest Report		Increase in Mangrove Cover (sq. km.)
	2013 (sq. km.)	2015 (sq. km.)	
Medinipur	3	3	0
North 24 Pargana	25	26	1
South 24 Pargana	2,069	2,077	8
Total	2,097	2,106	9

The Government has taken steps to sustain and enhance mangrove ecosystems in the country through promotional and regulatory methods. The promotional measures are being implemented through a centrally

sponsored scheme on conservation and management of mangroves and coral reefs. Regulatory measures are implemented through: Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification (2011) and the Island Protection Zone (IPZ) Notification 2011 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972; the Indian Forest Act, 1927; the Biological Diversity Act, 2002; and rules under these acts as amended from time to time.

To protect and conserve the coastal and marine environment, World Bank assisted Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Project envisages pilot investments in the coastal states of Gujarat, Odisha and West Bengal. Mangrove plantation is one of the major activities undertaken in the above three states and approximately 17,000 ha of mangrove plantation has been carried out in these areas under the ICZM project.

The Government has also carried out a detailed mapping of high tide line, environmentally sensitive areas, critically vulnerable coastal areas, sediment cells and hazard line for the coastal stretches in the country taking into account shoreline changes and impact of climate change on sea level rise.

Further, the Government launched the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in June 2008 to deal with the climate change and related issues. Thirty-two States and Union Territories including West Bengal have prepared State Action Plans on Climate Change to prioritise state specific issues relating to climate change including on coastal areas.
