

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2490**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2018

**Loss of Forest Cover in North-Eastern States**

2490. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA:

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

- (a) whether the forest cover in all the North- East States except Assam and Manipur is fast depleting;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Jhum farming is still a major cause of loss of forest cover in the North-East States and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Ministry has any alternative plan to replace Jhum farming by horticulture with full incentive and compensation to the Jhum farmers and if so, details thereof; and
- (e) whether his Ministry has taken up the matter with the respective State Governments and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) & (b) As per the latest “India State of Forest Report 2017 (ISFR-2017)” published by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, the total forest cover in the North Eastern Region of the country is 1,71,306 square kilometers which is 65.34 per cent of the geographical area of the region. The forest cover in the North Eastern region shows a decrease of 630 square kilometers over the updated India State of Forest Report 2015. Except Assam and Manipur, all North Eastern states namely Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura have shown negative change in forest cover. The state wise details of change in forest cover of North Eastern states is given in **Annexure**.
- (c) The major causes of loss of forest cover in the North Eastern states is attributed to shifting cultivation and biotic pressure prevalent in the region.
- (d) & (e) There is no proposal in the Ministry to replace Jhum farming with Horticulture with full incentive and compensation to Jhum farmers.

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Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to the part (a) to (b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2490 due for reply on 09.03.2018 regarding “Loss of Forest Cover in North-Eastern States”.

Forest Cover in North Eastern States

(Area in sq. km)

Sl No.	State	Geographical Area	Total Forest Cover As per ISFR- 2015 (Updated)	Total Forest Cover As per ISFR -2017	Change
1	<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>	83743	67154	66964	-190
2	<b>Assam</b>	78438	27538	28105	567
3	<b>Manipur</b>	22327	17083	17346	263
4	<b>Meghalaya</b>	22429	17262	17146	-116
5	<b>Mizoram</b>	21081	18717	18186	-531
6	<b>Nagaland</b>	16579	12939	12489	-450
7	<b>Sikkim</b>	7096	3353	3344	-9
8	<b>Tripura</b>	10486	7890	7726	-164
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>262179</b>	<b>171936</b>	<b>171306</b>	<b>-630</b>

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