

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1943
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2018

Development Schemes in Forest Areas

1943. SHRI VINCENT H. PALA:

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

- (a) the details of the steps taken to remedy the loss of about 135 hectares of natural forest land per day to development schemes;
- (b) the details of the forest area in the North East Region converted into Oil-palm plantations till date;
- (c) the details of the impact on environment due to loss of natural forests to Oil-palm plantations till date and the steps taken to remedy the same; and
- (d) the details of the steps taken to protect the threatened western Hoolock Gibbon as its habitats in the North-Eastern Forests are undergoing rapid change due to conversion of natural forests into Oil-palm plantations?

ANSWER

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

- (a) It is not true that 135 hectares of natural forest land is lost per day for development works. However, for various developmental activities in the country, prior approval for diversion of the forest is granted by the Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The year-wise details of forest land diverted for various developmental activities are given in **Annexure-I**. In order to compensate the loss of forest, compensatory afforestation is being carried by the forest department on equal non forest land and/or degraded forest land. The details of compensatory afforestation during 1980 to 2017 as reported by States/Union Territories are given in **Annexure-II**.
- (b) & (c) The Ministry has not received any information regarding conversion of forest area in North East Region into Oil Palm Plantation. However, as per information received from Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department, experimental oil palm plantation over an area of 15 hectares was taken up by Arunachal Forest Corporation way back prior to 1994 which was not successful. Therefore, there is no impact on environment due to oil palm plantation.

- (d) There is no change in the habitats of the western Hoolock Gibbon in North Eastern forests. However, Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department and Nagaland Forest Department has taken following steps to protect the western Hoolock Gibbon.
- (i) Conservation breeding of hoolock gibbon has been taken up in Itanagar biological park area.
 - (ii) Natural habitat area of western hoolock gibbon has been declared as National Parks/Wild Life Sanctuaries (Protected Areas) in the State for its conservation. Various National Parks/Wild Life Sanctuaries having viable hoolock gibbon population are Namdapha National Park, Mehao Wild Life Sanctuary, Kamlang Wild Life Sanctuary.
 - (iii) Nagaland Forest Department has taken a series of awareness programme involving villagers, students, district administration, churches and other stakeholders on co-existence of human beings with wild animals including western hoolock gibbon and its habitats.

Annexure I

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1943
due for answer on 21-12-2018 regarding ' Development Schemes in Forest Areas'**

**Statement showing diversion of forest land in last three years and current year under Forest
(Conservation) Act, 1980.**

S. No.	STATE/UT	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
		Area Diverted	Area Diverted	Area Diverted	Area Diverted	Area Diverted
1	Andaman and Nicobar	14.88	5.26	0.00	0.00	20.14
2	Andhra Pradesh	2056.29	175.38	1219.08	23.81	3474.57
3	Arunachal Pradesh	46.21	182.30	222.86	0.00	451.37
4	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Bihar	75.19	186.32	414.04	453.84	1129.38
6	Chandigarh	0.37	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.39
7	Chhattisgarh	2355.29	397.74	688.30	329.54	3770.87
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.00	1.50	0.70	3.20	5.40
9	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	Delhi	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.00
11	Goa	0.00	0.00	41.59	1.16	42.75
12	Gujarat	520.68	386.84	13.87	1086.69	2008.07
13	Haryana	267.54	427.65	260.46	524.93	1480.58
14	Himachal Pradesh	261.47	21.06	225.26	394.67	902.46
15	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	Jharkhand	190.40	303.82	25.17	166.52	685.90
17	Karnataka	120.84	316.90	320.10	26.91	784.75
18	Kerala	0.00	13.69	0.00	2.13	15.82
19	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	Madhya Pradesh	3075.92	686.69	2817.17	6150.97	12730.75
21	Maharashtra	655.71	2047.33	800.58	205.57	3709.19
22	Manipur	117.64	87.00	58.56	0.00	263.20
23	Meghalaya	138.11	0.00	4.82	0.00	142.93
24	Mizoram	0.00	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.24
25	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Orissa	1291.12	765.10	374.49	2537.57	4968.28
27	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	Punjab	171.87	76.59	566.44	561.27	1376.17
29	Rajasthan	265.48	189.79	2088.54	246.17	2789.97
30	Sikkim	9.36	12.28	2.05	0.61	24.30
31	Tamil Nadu	481.27	33.17	0.76	27.19	542.40
32	Telangana	2410.41	12.54	4876.18	579.35	7878.48
33	Tripura	59.43	12.74	3.33	8.48	83.98
34	Uttar Pradesh	159.56	0.00	4.20	0.00	163.76
35	Uttarakhand	18.98	1524.96	548.75	729.92	2822.61
36	West Bengal	0.00	170.22	108.64	12.29	291.15
TOTAL		14776.03	8037.16	15685.91	14072.79	52571.89

Annexure II

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1943
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**Compensatory Afforestation achieved from 1980 to 2017 as reported by States/Union
Territories from time to time**

(Area in hectare)

S. No.	Name of States	Compensatory Afforestation
1	Andaman & Nicobar	2353.97
2	Andhra Pradesh	31457.52
3	Arunachal Pradesh	11717.49
4	Assam	7874.00
5	Bihar	4304.40
6	Chandigarh	75.40
7	Chhattisgarh	48809.77
8	Delhi	107.79
9	Goa	1829.62
10	Gujarat	84811.66
11	Haryana	6861.30
12	Himachal Pradesh	24008.50
13	Jammu & Kashmir	37091.93
14	Jharkhand	25246.73
15	Karnataka	28067.00
16	Kerala	58578.40
17	Madhya Pradesh	136059.18
18	Maharashtra	97565.00
19	Manipur	5327.23
20	Meghalaya	611.00
21	Mizoram	7264.58
22	Odisha	55654.71
23	Punjab	13749.00
24	Rajasthan	40136.40
25	Sikkim	3667.43
26	Tamil Nadu	3702.00
27	Tripura	5594.00
28	Telangana	11480.00
29	Uttar Pradesh	19156.47
30	Uttarakhand	38415.07
31	West Bengal	3583.79
Grand total		815161.33

