

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4575
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2020

Forest Cover in NER

4575. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:

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

- (a) whether the forest cover in the North Eastern Region (NER) States is declining;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last five years, State-wise;
- (c) whether illegal coal mining and destruction of forest area is responsible for loss of forest cover in the North Eastern Region and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the 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
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) to (c) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially and findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The forest cover of the entire north eastern region as per ISFR- 2015, ISFR-2017 and ISFR-2019 is 1,68,583 square kilometer (km²), 1,67,962 km² and 1,67,199 km² respectively.

There is an overall increase in the forest cover in the country, however, some decline in forest cover in North East States has been observed in the ISFR-2019 as compared to ISFR-2017 & ISFR-2015 due to various reasons such as shifting cultivation, developmental activities such as mining, construction of dams, road and railway network, etc. Details of forest cover in North Eastern States are given in **Annexure**.

- (d) The Ministry has taken up the matter with the State Forest Departments of North Eastern States regarding decrease in forest cover and requested the State to review and take appropriate remedial measures.

To increase the forest cover in the country including North Eastern region, the Ministry is taking several initiatives. These include ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the

Ministry such as National Afforestation Programme, National Mission for a Green India and Development of Wildlife Habitats. The recently promulgated Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules, 2018 also contain provisions for taking up assisted natural regeneration, artificial regeneration and silvicultural operations in forests which contribute to increase in forest cover. The Ministry also supports school nursery and urban forestry programmes through people's participation.

Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes/funding sources such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana and under the schemes/plans of State/UT Governments.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4575 due for answer on 20.03.2020 regarding 'Forest Cover in NER'.

Forest cover in the North Eastern states during last five years.

(area in km²)

Sl. No.	State/UT	ISFR 2015	ISFR 2017	ISFR 2019	Change in forest cover during ISFR-2015 and 2017	Change in forest cover during ISFR-2017 and 2019
1	Arunachal Pradesh	67154	66,964	66,688	-190	-276
2	Assam	27538	28,105	28,327	567	222
3	Manipur	17083	17,346	16,847	263	-499
4	Meghalaya	17262	17,146	17,119	-116	-27
5	Mizoram	18717	18,186	18,006	-531	-180
6	Nagaland	12939	12,489	12,486	-450	-3
7	Tripura	7890	7,726	7,726	-164	0
Total Forest in North eastern Region		168583	167962	167199	-621	-763