

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 254**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 21.03.2022

**Sacred Groves in Meghalaya**

254. SHRI VINCENT H PALA:

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

- (a) whether any steps have been undertaken to promote Sacred Groves in Meghalaya for a sustainable community –driven future and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) Whether any funds have been allocated and released for the preservation of these Sacred Groves and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) Whether any study has been undertaken by the Government to assess the potential of Sacred Groves in creating a sustainable future and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)**

(a) to (c): Statement is laid on the table of the House.

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**Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 254 to be answered on Monday, the 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 on Sacred groves in Meghalaya by SHRI VINCENT H PALA**

- (a)to(c) Sacred groves are community conserved land parcels, which usually have a significant religious connotation for protecting the community, and can be notified as Community Conserved Areas under Wildlife(Protection) Act 1972, and Biodiversity Heritage Sites under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

The Ministry supports protection and conservation of Sacred groves with a strong emphasis on community involvement and eco-development activities.

The details of funds released for the activities in respect of Sacred Groves in Meghalaya by the Department of Forestsand Environment, Government of Meghalaya are at **Annexure**.

The details of studies undertaken and completed for Sacred groves in Meghalaya are as follows:

1. Inventorisation (Growing Stock Assessment) of 40 Nos Sacred Groves
2. Phytodiversity and Phytosociological characterisation of 10 Nos Sacred Groves having an area of 216.76 Ha
3. Preparation of Management Plans of 12 Nos Sacred Groves
4. Boundary Survey for 133 Sacred Groves

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**ANNEXURE**

**Annexure referred in reply to the Lok Sabha starred question No. 254 due for answer on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 regarding 'Sacred groves in Meghalaya' raised by Shri Vincent H Pala, Hon'ble Member of Parliament**

**The details of fund released in the past for the preservation of Sacred Groves in Meghalaya**

(i)

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Fund Released (in Rs.)</b>
1	Inventorisation (Growing Stock Assessment) of 40 Nos Sacred Groves in Meghalaya	2013-2014	30,00,000
2	Boundary Survey of Sacred Groves in Meghalaya	2013-2014	40,00,000
3	Phytodiversity and Phytosociological characterisation of Sacred Groves in Meghalaya carried out by Department of Environmental Studies NEHU, Shillong	2014-2015	20,00,000
4	Boundary Survey of Sacred Groves in Meghalaya by Meghalaya Biodiversity Board	2014-2015	9,36,000
5	Boundary Survey of Sacred Groves in Meghalaya	2019-2020	10,50,806
6	Wildlife conservation activities in the Sacred Groves notified as Community Reserves.	2013-2021	1,01,59,788

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