

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 1257
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 25.07.2022

Forest Depletion

1257. MS. MIMI CHAKRABORTY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed forest depletion in the North East region over the years and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether Government has conducted consultations with stakeholders from the North East Region and the West Bengal Government regarding proposed amendments to the Forest (Conservation) Act thereto and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reasons India did not join 100 plus world leaders in signing the Glasgow declaration in November 2021, to halt and reverse deforestation and land degradation by 2030?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially since 1987 and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The forest cover assessment is a wall-to-wall mapping exercise based on remote sensing supported by intensive ground verification and field data from National Forest Inventory. As per latest ISFR 2021, the total forest cover of the country is 7,13,789 square kilometres which is 21.71 % of the geographical area of the country. The total forest cover of the country has increased by 12,294 square kilometre at the national level in last seven years (ISFR-2015 to ISFR-2021).

As per ISFR-2021, the North East Region of the country shows an overall decrease of 1,020 square kilometre of forest cover as compared to the previous assessment of 2019. The loss in forest cover in the North East States may be attributed mainly to developmental activities, natural calamities and anthropogenic pressure.

The State wise details of change in forest cover in the North East region in India between ISFR 2011 to ISFR 2021 is given below:-

(Area in square kilometre)

State	Total forest cover as per ISFR 2011	Total forest cover as per ISFR 2021	Change in forest cover w.r.t. ISFR 2011
Arunachal Pradesh	67,410	66,431	-979
Assam	27,673	28,312	639
Manipur	17,090	16,598	-492
Meghalaya	17,275	17,046	-229
Mizoram	19,117	17,820	-1,297
Nagaland	13,318	12,251	-1,067
Sikkim	3,359	3,341	-18
Tripura	7,977	7,722	-255
Total	1,73,219	1,69,521	-3,698

- (b) The Ministry has received suggestions from various Ministries, State Governments and stakeholders regarding amendments in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In this regard, a public Consultation paper containing the details on the proposed amendments was circulated for inviting comments/suggestions from various stakeholders including those in the North East region and West Bengal in October, 2021.
- (c) India has not joined, due to reference to trade as an area in the Glasgow Declaration on Forests and Land Use in November 2021.
