

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 3550**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 08.08.2022

**Forest Cover**

3550. KUMARI AGATHA K. SANGMA:

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

- (a) whether the Government plans to make Forest Survey of India (FSI) data publicly available for verification of the claim that forest cover has increased in the country and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether monoculture plantations are counted as forest cover in the FSI report and if so, the justification for the same;
- (c) the reasons for declining tree cover in the North East Region which accounts for 74% of the total tree loss in the country;
- (d) the details of area in which afforestation efforts have been implemented in the North East Region during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken to preserve the biodiversity and forest cover of the North East Region?

**ANSWER**

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

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) India State of Forest Reports having state wise forest cover maps and district wise forest cover figure are available at Forest Survey of India website.
- (b) The term “forest cover” reported in India State of Forest Report (ISFR) refers to all lands, more than one hectare in area, with a tree canopy density of more than 10 percent irrespective of ownership and legal status. Such lands may not necessarily be a recorded forest area. It also includes orchards, bamboo, palm and monoculture plantations. As per decision 19 of Conference of Parties (CP9) -Kyoto Protocol, the forest can be defined by any country depending upon the capacities and capabilities of the country as follows:-  
Forest- Forest is defined structurally on the basis of
  - Crown cover percentage: Tree crown cover- 10 to 30% (India 10%)
  - Minimum area of stand: area between 0.05 and 1 hectare (India 1.0 hectare) and
  - Minimum height of trees: Potential to reach a minimum height at maturity *in situ* of 2 to 5 metre (India 2 metre)

India’s definition of forest has been taken on the basis of above three criteria only and very well accepted by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

for their reporting/communications. The definition of forest cover has clearly been defined in all India State of Forest Reports (ISFR) and in all International communications of India.

- (c) As per ISFR-2021, the loss in forest cover in the North Eastern States may be attributed mainly to developmental activities, natural calamities and anthropogenic pressure.
- (d) National Mission for a Green India (GIM) is one of the eight Missions outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. It aims at protecting, restoring, and enhancing India's forest cover and responding to Climate Change by undertaking plantation activities in the forest and non-forest areas. GIM activities were started in the Financial Year 2015-16. So far, a sum of Rs. 97.91 Crores have been released to 4 North eastern States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Sikkim for undertaking the afforestation activities over 23429 hectares. The State-wise and year-wise details of funds released and afforestation targets under Green India Mission are given at **Annexure**.
- (e) To improve and increase the forest & tree cover in the country, afforestation programmes are taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Ministry such as National Mission for a Green India (GIM). The Ministry is implementing Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) since the year 2020 which envisages developing 400 Nagar Vans and 200 Nagar Vatika in the country during the period of 2020-21 to 2024-25 with an objective to significantly enhance the tree outside forests and green cover, enhancement of biodiversity and ecological benefits to the urban and peri-urban areas apart from improving quality of life of city dwellers with the funds under the National Fund of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). The Ministry is also implementing 'School Nursery Yojana' (SNY) since the year 2020 for a period of five years where students of class Sixth, Seventh and Eighth from all public and private schools organized by State Boards/ Central Government Boards all over the country will be actively involved in developing nursery, raising and planting seedlings as part of school curriculum.

Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes/funding sources such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Compensatory Afforestation Funds under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). Afforestation activities are also taken up under various schemes of State Government /UT Administration. In addition, plantations are also done by various departments, Non-Government Organizations, Civil Society, Corporate bodies etc.

The State Governments in North East region also carry out plantation involving local communities in the Jhum affected areas and provide alternate livelihood for forest fringe communities. The State Governments also take steps for protection of forest and wildlife by continuous patrolling, extension and research activities for preservation of biodiversity and forest cover.

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**Annexure**

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3550  
due for answer on 08.08.2022 regarding 'Forest Cover'**

**Fund released in NER Head from 2019-20 to 2021-22 under Green India Mission**

**(Rs. in Crores)**

| S. No | States            | FY 2019-20    |                 | FY 2020-21    |                 | FY 2021-22    |                 | Total Fund released | Total sanctioned afforestation Target (hectare) |
|-------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
|       |                   | Fund released | Physical Target | Fund released | Physical Target | Fund released | Physical Target |                     |                                                 |
| 1     | Arunachal Pradesh | -             | -               | -             | -               | 13.43         | 10777           | 13.43               | 10777                                           |
| 2     | Manipur           | 4.16          | -               | 6.74          | 8122            | 9.93          | 2056            | 20.83               | 10178                                           |
| 3     | Mizoram           | 17.71         | -               | 2.99          | -               | 29.86         | -               | 50.56               | 0                                               |
| 4     | Sikkim            | 3.12          | -               | 2.19          | -               | 7.77          | 2474            | 13.09               | 2474                                            |
|       | <b>Total</b>      | <b>25.00</b>  | <b>-</b>        | <b>11.92</b>  | <b>8122</b>     | <b>60.99</b>  | <b>15307</b>    | <b>97.91</b>        | <b>23429</b>                                    |