

differentiated strategies; to increase the area under bamboo in potential regions with appropriate species to enhance yield; to establish convergence and synergy among stock-holders for development of bamboo and bamboo based products; to promote, develop and disseminate technologies and to generate employment opportunities for skilled and unskilled persons, especially unemployed youth.

Since inception under the Mission, 1,95,339 ha land has been planted with bamboo. All area of 51,925 ha of existing bamboo plantation has been improved for higher productivity. In addition, 1279 nurseries have been established for supplying quality planting material. In different States, 36,868 farmers and 5711 field functionaries have been trained in the area of nursery management and bamboo plantation. In order to generate awareness among bamboo growers, 47 state-level and 471 district-level workshops/seminars have been conducted.

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has not formulated any policy on bamboo. However, National Bamboo Mission under the Ministry of Agriculture are preparing various strategies to promote holistic growth of bamboo sector.

Forest cover in Tamil Nadu

3434. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that forest cover has decreased in the country over the years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, with special reference to Tamil Nadu; and
- (c) the reasons for the decrease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) The forest cover of the country is assessed by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun since 1987. The same is published in India State of Forest Report which is published biennially by Forest Survey of India. The forest cover assessment of the country over the years is as follows :

<i>(Area in km²)</i>			
1987	1997	2009	2011
6,40,819	6,59,550	6,92,394	6,92,027

As per India State of Forest Report, 2011, there is marginal decline of 367 km² with respect to previous assessment of India State of Forest Report, 2009. The details of forest cover, State-wise, as per India State of Forest Report is given in statement. (See below)

(b) and (c) As per India State of Forest Report 2011, 13 States/UTs have shown decrease in forest cover to the extent of 867 km² in the States details are given in Statement-II (*See below*) alongwith the reasons. There is also an increase of 500 km² of forest cover in the States of Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Punjab, Jharkhand, Orissa and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. So, effectively there is net decline of forest cover to the tune of 367 km². Regarding the State of Tamil Nadu as per India State of Forest Report, 2011, the forest cover of the State is 23,625 km² which is 18.16% of the State geographical area. There is net increase of 74 km² with respect to previous assessment of 2009. The reason for increase in forest cover in the State of Tamil Nadu is regeneration in forest areas and extensive plantation activities in and outside forests.

Statement - I*Forest cover in States/UTs in India**(area in sq km)*

State/UT	Geog. Area	Forest Cover in 2011			Total	Real change* From SFR 09
		Very Dense Forest	Mod. Dense Forest	Open Forest		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	275069	850	26242	19297	46389	-281
Arunachal Pradesh	83743	20868	31519	15023	67410	-74
Assam	78438	1444	11404	14825	27673	-19
Bihar	94163	231	3280	3334	6845	41
Chhattisgarh	135191	4163	34911	16600	55674	-4
Delhi	1483	7	49	120	176	0
Goa	3702	543	585	1091	2219	7
Gujarat	196022	376	5231	9012	14619	-1
Haryana	44212	27	457	1124	1608	14
Himachal Pradesh	55673	3224	6381	5074	14679	11
Jammu and Kashmir	222236	4140	8760	9639	22539	2
Jharkhand	79714	2590	9917	10470	22977	83
Karnataka	191791	1777	20179	14238	36194	4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Kerala	38863	1442	9394	6464	17300	-24
Madhya Pradesh	308245	6640	34986	36074	77700	0
Maharashtra	307713	8736	20815	21095	50646	-4
Manipur	22327	730	6151	10209	17090	-190
Meghalaya	22429	433	9775	7067	17275	-46
Mizoram	21081	134	6086	12897	19117	-66
Nagaland	16579	1293	4931	7094	13318	-146
Orissa	155707	7060	21366	20477	48903	48
Punjab	50362	0	736	1028	1764	100
Rajasthan	342239	72	4448	11567	16087	51
Sikkim	7096	500	2161	698	3359	0
Tamil Nadu	130058	2948	10321	10356	23625	74
Tripura	10486	109	4686	3182	7977	-8
Uttar Pradesh	240928	1626	4559	8153	14338	-3
Uttarakhand	53483	4762	14167	5567	24496	1
West Bengal	88752	2984	4646	5365	12995	1
A & N Islands	8249	3761	2416	547	6724	62
Chandigarh	114	1	10	6	17	0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	491	0	114	97	211	0
Daman and Diu	112	0	0.62	5.53	6	0
Lakshadweep	32	0	17.18	9.88	27	1
Puducherry	480	0	35.37	14.69	50	0
GRAND TOTAL	3287263	83471	320736	287820	692027	-367

* The change in the above table refers to change in the area with respect to 2009 assessment after incorporation interpretational changes.

Statement - II*States/UTs wise decline in forest cover in the country and reasons therefore*

Sl. No.	States	Change from ISFR 2009(km ²)	Major reasons for loss
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-281	Management interventions like harvesting of short rotation crops followed by new regeneration/plantations, forest clearance in some encroached areas.
2.	Manipur	-190	Decrease in forest cover in the State is due to shortening of shifting cultivation cycle and biotic pressure.
3.	Nagaland	-146	Decrease in forest cover in the State is due to shortening of shifting cultivation cycle and biotic pressure.
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	-74	Change in forest cover in the state is because of shifting cultivation and biotic pressure.
5.	Mizoram	-66	Decrease in forest cover in the State is due to shortening of shifting cultivation cycle and biotic pressure.
6.	Meghalaya	-46	Decrease in forest cover in the State is due to shortening of shifting cultivation cycle and biotic pressure.
7.	Kerala	-24	Decrease in forest cover in the state is due to rotational felling of Eucalyptus, Teak, <i>Acacia mangium</i> , rubber and shade bearing trees in the gardens.
8.	Assam	-19	Decrease in forest cover is mainly attributed to illicit felling, encroachments in insurgency affected areas and shifting cultivation practices.
9.	Tripura	-8	Decrease in forest cover in the state is due to clearings for rubber plantations and shifting cultivations practices.
10.	Maharashtra	-4	-

1	2	3	4
11.	Chhattisgarh	-4	Submergence of forest areas in catchments of the dams.
12.	Uttar Pradesh	-3	-
13.	Gujarat	-1	Decrease in forest cover in the state is due to private felling in the Tree Outside Forests areas.
14.	Chandigarh	-0.22	-
TOTAL		-866.22	

Migration of Siberian Cranes to India

3435. SHRI V. P. SINGH BADNORE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of lakes or water bodies where Siberian Cranes migrate in the country;
- (b) when and how many of them were last sighted; and
- (c) whether Government has any programme to ensure their migration to this country and also their survival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) Keoladeo Ghana National Park, Bharatpur in Rajasthan has been the only known wintering grounds for Siberian Crane in India since 1940s.

(b) A pair of Siberian Crane, *i.e.* two birds, was sighted last in the Keoladeo Ghana National Park during the year 2000-01.

(c) The Government has taken following steps to ensure the migration of Siberian Cranes to India:

- (i) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Conservation of Siberian Cranes under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species of wild animals (Bonn Convention) has been signed to develop partnership with other countries along the migratory route of the species in Asia to help reduce threats for Siberian Cranes and preserve wetland sites required for their migration to India.
- (ii) Governments of India and Russia have signed a bilateral treaty to conserve cranes and ensure their safety in the breeding and wintering sites.