

(c) whether Meghalaya had taken up the issue of strengthening of border trading facilities with Bangladesh, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) Prime Minister held a meeting with the Chief Ministers of North Eastern States on 20.1.2014 to discuss infrastructure development in the North Eastern Region. The sectors covered in the meeting were Railways, Roads, Airports, Inland Water Transportation, Power and Telecommunication.

(b) Summary of issues discussed in the meeting of Prime Minister with Chief Ministers on 20.1.2014 relate to development of connectivity with the rest of the country, including telecommunication and development of power sector; achievement of substantial progress in implementation of number of railways, roads, power projects which are nearing completion; time-bound completion of other ongoing projects relating to power, transmission lines, airport, telecom, connectivity with the neighbouring countries, airport development for intra-regional and international connectivity etc.

(c) Chief Minister, Meghalaya *inter alia* took up the issue of early completion of NH-62 from Damra in Assam and ending at Dalu (Bangladesh border) in Meghalaya and NH-51 starting from Paikan in Assam to Dalu in Meghalaya for strengthening border trade with Bangladesh.

Satellite measurement report

2337. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for creating awareness about the environment pollution and forest protection;

(b) whether the forest coverage of our country is increasing, if so, the State-wise details for last three years; and

(c) whether the Satellite measurement also include the sugarcane, wheat and cornfield if so, how to eliminate these area in the satellite measurement report?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) Environment Education, Awareness and Training (EEAT) is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for enhancing awareness and

understanding of people at all levels about the relationship between human beings and the environment. It also aims to develop capabilities to improve and protect the environment. Under this scheme there are two major programmes namely National Green Corps (NGC) and National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) in which financial assistance is provided to various organisations for the protection of environment in the Country. Further, 1% of funds under National Afforestation Programme (NAP) are provided to States for awareness programs. A number of awards have also been instituted by the Ministry to recognise exemplary efforts in the field of Environment and Forests protection. Every year World Forestry Day, World Earth Day, World Environment Day, Van Mahotsav and Wildlife Week are also celebrated with the objective of creating awareness about forest and environment.

(b) According to the biennial report of Forest Survey of India 2011, the forest cover of the country has decreased between 2009 assessment and 2011 assessment. State/ Union Territory wise details of forest cover are given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) The satellite based assessment of forest cover reported by the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun does not include sugarcane, wheat and cornfield.

Statement

State-wise/Union Territory-wise details of Forest Cover

(Forest Cover Area in Sq. Km)		
States/ Union Territories	India State of Forest Report 2009	India State of Forest Report 2011
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	46670	46389
Arunachal Pradesh	67484	67410
Assam	27692	27673
Bihar	6804	6845
Chhattisgarh	55678	55674
Delhi	177	176

1	2	3
Goa	2212	2219
Gujarat	14620	14619
Haryana	1594	1608
Himachal Pradesh	14668	14679
Jammu and Kashmir	22537	22539
Jharkhand	22894	22977
Karnataka	36190	36194
Kerala	17324	17300
Madhya Pradesh	77700	77700
Maharashtra	50650	50646
Manipur	17280	17090
Meghalaya	17321	17275
Mizoram	19183	19117
Nagaland	13464	13318
Odisha	48855	48903
Punjab	1664	1764
Rajasthan	16036	16087
Sikkim	3359	3359
Tamil Nadu	23551	23625
Tripura	7985	7977
Uttar Pradesh	14341	14338
Uttarakhand	24495	24496
West Bengal	12994	12995

1	2	3
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6662	6724
Chandigarh	17	17
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	211	211
Daman and Diu	6	6
Lakshadweep	26	27
Puducherry	50	50
GRAND TOTAL	692394	692027

Conservation of musk deers

†2338. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of States where musk deers are found and at what altitudes;
- (b) the steps taken by Central Government so far for the conservation of musk deers;
- (c) whether Government is bringing an ordinance for the conservation of musk deer; and
- (d) if so, at what altitude Government will start the conservation of the musk deers?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) In India the musk deer is reported to occur in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. The deer is mostly found at an altitude of more than 2,500 m above sea level.

(b) The above five Himalayan States have declared Protected Areas under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 that include habitats of musk deer. The Musk deer is included in Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 granting it the highest protection against illegal hunting and trade. The Act also empowers specified officers to prevent commission of offences.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.