

Reduction of forest resources

2304. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Forest resources in India particularly in North-East and specifically in Assam are reducing;

(b) if so, the rate of reduction of forest resources and the reasons for such depreciation;

(c) the steps that have been taken to increase and protect the forest area; and

(d) the number of plantation of trees in North-East Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2013 there has been an overall decline of 627 square kilometers forest cover in the North-Eastern States as compared to India State of Forest Report-2011. The decline in forest cover in the State of Assam is to the tune of 2 square kilometers with respect to India State of Forest Report- 2011. The reasons for decrease in forest cover for North Eastern Region are shifting cultivation, biotic pressure, landslide etc.

(c) and (d) In order to improve the quality of degraded forest areas and to bring new areas under forest cover, afforestation in the country is taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), National Bamboo Mission (NBM) and under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), 13th Finance Commission, different State Plan/ Non- Plan Schemes including externally aided projects. National Afforestation Programme (NAP) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme for afforestation and tree plantation and eco-restoration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country. The Scheme is being implemented through a decentralized mechanism of State Forest Development Agency (SFDA) at State level, Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at Village levels. The details of funds released and approved area for North-Eastern States including Assam under the National Afforestation Programme Scheme during last three years and current year so far are given in Statement-I (See below).

Besides above, under 13th Finance Commission, out of the total allocation of

₹ 1676.72 crore for North-Eastern Region including Assam, ₹ 928.04 crore has been released so far. The details of funds allocated and released under 13th Finance Commission for North-Eastern States from 2010-11 to 2014-15 are given in Statement-II (*See below*). Additional Central Assistance of ₹ 1777.00 crore has been released to North-Eastern States including Assam during 2009-10 for restoration and regeneration of forest cover. The details are given in Statement-III (*See below*).

To prevent felling of trees, Ministry provides Grants-in-aid to State Governments under Intensification Forest Management Scheme (IFMS). The aim of the scheme is to supplement the efforts of the States forest management and protection. Funds under the scheme are utilized for patrolling of the forests, establishment of camps, building fire watch towers, creation and maintenance of fire lines, forest fire control, survey and demarcation of forest areas and strengthening forest infrastructure. Under the IFMS ₹ 5106.81 lakhs were released to States/UTs for the year 2013-14. Out of which ₹ 1268.65 were released to North Eastern States for the year 2013-14. The details of funds released under Intensification Forest Management Scheme (IFMS) to North Eastern States during last three years are given in Statement-IV.

Statement-I

Details of funds released and approved area for North Eastern States including Assam from the year 2011-12 to 2014-15 under National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme

Sl. No	State	Amount Released (₹ in crore)				Approved Area (Area in Hectare)			
		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	1.66	0.00	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Assam	7.95	1.47	2.99	0	0	0	3675	0
3.	Manipur	12.74	9.46	12.12	4.00	4250	3970	2530	1835
4.	Meghalaya	4.31	9.10	4.50		3930	3000	3000	
5.	Mizoram	13.44	8.78	11.94	7.50	2600	2500	3000	3135
6.	Nagaland	11.69	10.88	9.82	5.50	8000	2910	4000	2130
7.	Sikkim	11.18	5.42	3.77	3.00	3730	650	1095	1851
8.	Tripura	13.69	3.50	11.99	4.50	6220	4435	4547	1796
	TOTAL (NE States)	75.00	50.27	57.13	24.50	28730	17465	21847	10747

Statement-II

*Allocation and Release of Grants-in-Aid for Forests under 13th Finance Commission in respect of
NE States from 2010-11 to 2014-15*

(₹ in Crore)

State	Allocation						Release					
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total Allocation (2010-15)	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total release (2010-11 to 2014-15)
Arunachal Pradesh	90.98	90.98	181.96	181.96	181.96	727.84	90.98	90.98	126.92	82.26	0.00	391.14
Assam	23.08	23.08	46.16	46.16	46.16	184.64	23.08	23.08	11.54	11.54	0.00	69.24
Manipur	18.79	18.79	37.58	37.58	37.58	150.32	18.79	18.79	28.19	46.98	9.40	112.75
Meghalaya	21.01	21.01	42.02	42.02	42.02	168.08	21.01	21.01	0.00	31.52	0.00	73.54
Mizoram	21.40	21.40	42.80	42.80	42.80	171.20	21.40	21.40	19.26	47.72	10.70	109.78
Nagaland	17.32	17.32	34.64	34.64	34.64	138.56	17.32	17.32	25.98	23.38	0.00	84.00
Sikkim	5.07	5.07	10.14	10.14	10.14	40.56	5.07	5.07	10.14	7.61	0.00	27.89
Tripura	11.94	11.94	23.88	23.88	23.88	95.52	11.94	11.94	17.91	17.91	0.00	59.70
TOTAL	209.59	209.59	419.18	419.18	419.18	1676.72	209.59	209.59	239.94	268.92	20.10	928.04

Statement-III

*Statement of funds released under Additional Central Assistance in respect of
North-Eastern States during 2009-10*

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No	State	Amount Released
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	215.00
2.	Assam	430.00
3.	Manipur	273.00
4.	Meghalaya	39.00
5.	Mizoram	430.00
6.	Nagaland	156.00
7.	Tripura	234.00
TOTAL		1777.00

Statement-IV

*Details of fund released under the IFMS to North Eastern States during
last three years (2011-12 to 2013-14)*

(₹ in lakhs)

Sl. No.	States	Amount Released		
		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
North Eastern States				
1.	Assam	246.64	0.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	261.15	0.00	0.00
3.	Manipur	461.81	117.51	294.86
4.	Meghalaya	161.26	144.64	244.83
5.	Mizoram	253.17	292.00	284.74
6.	Nagaland	346.97	0.00	145.92
7.	Sikkim	288.41	35.28	166.5
8.	Tripura	60.59	376.90	131.8
TOTAL		2080.00	966.33	1268.65