

Deforestation in Manipur

43. SHRI K. BHABANANDA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether deforestation is being done in a large scale in the hills of Manipur, causing a big environmental impact;

(b) whether frequent landslides and the recent massive earthquakes in the State are the testimonies to the consequences of this phenomenon;

(c) the course of action being contemplated to neutralise this impact; and

(d) the amount of funds for environmental improvements during the last three years and the amount of funds likely to be spent during the next three years for the purpose in the State?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) As per information received from Government of Manipur, there is no large scale deforestation in the hills of Manipur. However, forests in certain areas become degraded due to the traditional practice of Jhum/ Shifting cultivation. As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2015 published by the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, there has been an increase of forest cover to the tune of 4 sq.km. compared to the previous assessment of 2013.

(b) No Sir. The State is prone to earthquakes as it falls within the seismic Zone V. Further, the State being situated within Himalayan young fold mountains, landslides are usually reported during monsoon. The frequent landslides take place due to incessant rainfall impacting on the loose and fragile geographical formations of the region.

(c) To reduce the occurrence of landslides and maintain the soil compactness, Manipur Forest Department takes up various measures such as landscape-based afforestation, soil moisture conservation, Catchment Area Treatment, Jhumia Rehabilitation etc. through various schemes of Government of India such as National Afforestation Programme, Green India Mission etc. and various schemes of Government of Manipur.

(d) The details of funds allotted and spent by Government of Manipur under the State Plan and Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Government of India during the last three years and current year (till 30.06.2017), as reported by Government of Manipur the amount proposed to be spent during the next three years under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Green India Mission, for the State of Manipur are given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of funds allotted and spent by State of Manipur under Centrally Sponsored Scheme during last three years and the amount proposed under Green India Mission to be spent by Manipur for the next three years

(₹ in crores)

Sl. No.	Year	Expenditure under State Plan	Expenditure under Centrally Sponsored Schemes	Total
1.	2014-15	8.47	65.65 (including allocation under 13th Finance Commission)	74.12
2.	2015-16	13.32	23.98	37.30
3.	2016-17	13.76	17.37	31.13

The proposed amount under Green India Mission for the State of Manipur during 2017-18 to 2019-20.

(₹ in crores)

Sl. No.	Year	Proposed Expenditure under Green India Mission
1.	2017-18	40.32
2.	2018-19	36.16
3.	2019-20	21.71

New Central rule on sale of animals for slaughter or sacrifice

44. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has brought in a new Central rule that prohibits sale of cows, bulls, bullocks, buffaloes, steers, heifers, calves and camels for slaughter or sacrifice in livestock markets and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether certain State Governments have objected to the Central rule;

(c) if so, whether Government has taken any steps to sort out the issue and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has also received representations seeking modification in the definition of cattle to exempt buffaloes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the response of Government thereto?