114	Written Answers to		[RAJYA SABHA] Unstarred Questions
1	2	3	4
51.	Red/Small -	TTN0863	Austro Carbon Private Limited
52.	Red/Small	TTN0864	V. Krishanth Enterprises Unit-II
53.	Red/Small	TTN0865	Glory Minerals
54.	Red/Small	TTN0877	South India Bromine and Allied Chemicals
55.	Red/Small	TTN0917	Radium Industries
56.	Red/Small	TTN0945	M. Edison and Company Pvt Ltd
57.	Red/Small	TTN0963	Classic Plasters
58.	Red/Small	TTN0978	Lovely Chemicals Lime stone mining lease-II
59.	Red/Small	TTN09 7 9	Lovely Chemicals Limestone Mining lease-I
60.	Red/Small	TTN0997	V.V. Titanium Pigments P Ltd., (CMS Division)
61.	Red/Small	TTN1027	$N\ C$ John and Sons Pvt Ltd - III
62.	Red/Small	TTN1030	R.K.J and CO
63.	Red/Small	TTN1087	Apan Carbon P Ltd
64.	Red/Small	TTN1193	Sree Chemicals
65.	Red/Small	TTN1194	Brilliant Plasters
66.	Red/Small	TTN1202	Sai Kirupa Enterprises
67.	Red/Small	TTN1207	C.S. Zircon Products P Ltd
68.	Red/Small	TTN1208	V.V. Titanium Pigments Private Limited
69	Red/Small	TTN1253	Solomon Plasters

Increase in forest cover and carbon stock

3236. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the forest cover and carbon stock in forest cover have registered a decrease in North-East Region in comparison to the assessment done in 2017;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor;

- (c) whether Government has any plan to put in efforts to accelerate rate of increase in forest cover and carbon stock by addressing the problems deftly; and
- (d) details of action plan Government has formulated to raise forest on the bare hills in different parts of the country to counter climate change?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry, carries out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially and findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). ISFR-2019 is the latest in the series.

As per ISFR 2019, there is an overall increase of 3976 square kilometres (km²) in the national forest cover. It has also noted increase in the carbon stock of the country. However, there is a decrease of 765 km² in forest cover in North Eastern Region in ISFR-2019 as compared to ISFR-2017 due to various reasons such as shifting cultivation, developmental activities such as mining, construction of dams, road and railway network, etc. State-wise details of forest cover alongwith change in forest cover is given in Statement-I (See below).

During the same period, forest carbon stock of North Eastern Region has increased due to increase in forest cover in those forest types which have high forest carbon per hectare. Details of forest carbon stock in North Eastern Region are given in Statement-II (See below).

(c) and (d) The Ministry has taken up the matter with the State Forest Departments of North Eastern States regarding decrease in forest cover and requested the State to review and take appropriate remedial measures.

To increase the forest cover and carbon stock in the country including North Eastern region, the Ministry is taking several initiatives. These include ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Ministry such as National Afforestation Programme, National Mission for a Green India and Development of Wildlife Habitats. The Compensatory

Afforestation Fund Rules, 2018 also contain provisions for taking up assisted natural regeneration, artificial regeneration and silvicultural operations in forests which contribute to increase in forest cover.

Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes/funding sources such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana and under the schemes/plans of State/UT Governments.

Statement-I

State-wise details of forest cover along with changes in forest cover

(Area in km²)

			Forest cover in North East States as per ISFR 2017 and 2019			
Sl. No.	State	Geographical	ISFR 2017	ISFR 2019	Change	
		Area			w.r.t. ISFR	
					2017	
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	66,964	66,688	-276	
2.	Assam	78,438	28,105	28,327	222	
3.	Manipur	22,327	17,346	16,847	-499	
4.	Meghalaya	22,429	17,146	17,119	-27	
5.	Mizoram	21,081	18,186	18,006	-180	
6.	Nagaland	16,579	12,489	12,486	-3	
7.	Sikkim	7,096	3,344	3,342	-2	
8.	Tripura	10,486	7,726	7,726	0	
	Total	2,62,179	1,71,306	1,70,541	-765	

Statement-II

Forest Carbon stock in North Eastern States in different carbon pools
As per ISFR 2019 (in '000 tonnes)

Sl. I	No. State/UT	Area in km²	AGB	BGB	Dead Wood	Litter	SOC
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	66,688	330,856	100,379	7,816	15,436	5,96,836
2.	Assam	28,327	85,844	21,148	1,102	7,223	1,54,832
3.	Manipur	16,847	44,723	13,317	508	3,924	1,16,251
4.	Meghalaya	17,119	52,302	14,963	731	4,328	1,08,642
5.	Mizoram	18,006	44,973	9,925	451	4,516	96,689
6.	Nagaland	12,486	35,850	9,612	522	2,897	86,646
7.	Sikkim	3,342	17,645	5,372	505	664	32,994
8.	Tripura	7,726	25,061	5,513	297	2,169	43,017
96	Total	170,541	637,254	180,229	11,932	41,157	1,235,907

AGB- Above Ground Biomass

BGB- Below Ground Biomass

SOC- Soil Organic Carbon