

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 531
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2021

Reduction in forest cover in Northeast India

531. MS. SUSHMITA DEV:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the forest cover reduction in the North East region in India yearly from 2017 to 2021, State-wise details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has conducted consultations with stakeholders from the North East region regarding proposed amendments to the Forest Conservation Act;
- (c) if so, the details of the consultation and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the reasons why India did not join 100+ world leaders in signing the Glasgow Declaration in November 2021, to halt and reverse deforestation and land degradation by 2030?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially since 1987 and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The forest cover assessment is a wall-to-wall mapping exercise based on remote sensing supported by intensive ground verification and field data from National Forest Inventory. As per latest ISFR 2019, the total forest and tree cover of the country is 8,07,276 square kilometers which is 24.56 % of the geographical area of the country. There is an increase of 13,209 square kilometer of forest and tree cover at the national level in the ISFR-2019 as compared to the ISFR-2015. The State wise details of change in forest cover in the Northeast region in India between ISFR 2017 to ISFR 2019 is given in **Annexure**.
- (b) & (c) The Ministry has received suggestions from various Ministries, State Governments and stakeholders regarding amendments in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In this regard, a public Consultation paper containing the details on the proposed amendments was circulated for inviting comments/suggestions from various stakeholders including those in the Northeast region in October, 2021.
- (d) India has not joined, due to reference to trade as an area in the Glasgow Declaration on Forests and Land Use in November 2021.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 531 due for answer on 02.12.2021 regarding 'Reduction in forest cover in Northeast India'

Details of change in forest cover in Northeast region between ISFR-2017 to ISFR-2019

(area in km ²)					
Sl. No.	State/UT	Geographical Area (GA)	ISFR 2017	ISFR 2019	Change in forest cover
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	262,179	171,306	170,541	-765