

Deforestation in North Eastern States*[English]*

705. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR
SHASTRI
DR. S.P. YADAV

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether forest area in a number of North-Eastern States has been decreasing drastically;

(b) if so, the percentage of the forest area in these States decreased during the last decade;

(c) the reasons for decreasing of forests in the region; and

(d) the plan, if any, that has been formulated by the Government to check the decrease in forest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c). According to the assessment made by the Forest Survey of India based on the visual interpretation of satellite imageries pertaining to the periods 1981-83 and 1985-87, a decrease in actual forest cover has been indicated in the following states mainly due to shifting cultivation and unregulated felling:

Assam	1.2%
Meghalaya	4.97%
Mizoram	4.78%
Tripura	7.2%

(d) The Government have taken following steps to check it:

- (1) Afforestation programmes have been launched under the 20 Point Programme;
- (2) Guidelines have been issued to prepare Working Plans for all the forest areas;
- (3) As per available information, under the centrally sponsored scheme relating to shifting cultivation, 26,582 families have been selected for rehabilitation in nine states, for which, a total outlay of Rs. 174 crores is envisaged. During the four years, 1987-88 to 1990-91 a sum of Rs. 50.91 crores has been released as a Central Assistance to the nine states for implementation of this scheme.

National Committee on Tourism

706. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study report regarding promotion of international tourism in the country has been submitted to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the recommendations made thereon with details of package of incentives recommended by the National Committee on tourism?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The recommendation relate to a package of incentives for attracting