

1	2	3	4	5
North-Eastern Region				
Arunachal Pradesh	36.3	28.6	7.7	21.2
Assam	763.0	675.2	87.8	11.5
Manipur	125.8	114.8	11.0	8.7
Meghalaya	98.7	105.1	+ 6.4	+ 6.5
Mizoram	53.6	44.3	9.3	17.4
Nagaland	51.9	41.6	10.3	19.8
Tripura	132.7	127.4	5.3	4.0
Total (NER)	1262.0	1137.0	125.0	9.9
All India	112086	104308	7778	6.9

[*Translation*]

Recovery of Outstanding Dues against Political Parties

4649. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total dues outstanding against the political parties and organisations, Political Party-wise and organisation-wise; and

(b) the action being taken by the Government to recover the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):
(a) and (b): The information has been called for and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Action Plan for Afforestation

4650. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing forest cover in the country has declined posing threat to our environment;

(b) if so, whether the Government have drawn up any revised action plan for undertaking the afforestation programme in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The forest cover in the country has been marginally declined from 19.52% to 19.46% of the geographical area in the period 1981 to 1993.

(b) and (c):

(i) The Ministry has requested the concerned State/UT Governments to take serious note of depletion of forest cover and to make an in-depth analysis of the factors contributing to the depletion of forest cover, to evolve effective strategy and action programme for arresting the trend so as to increase the forest cover in the coming years.

(ii) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by the State Governments from their own resources and with financial assistance under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and under externally aided projects. A total of 7.86 million ha. of afforestation has been done in the Eighth Plan.

(iii) A Working Group was constituted for recommending framework of activities in forestry sector for Ninth Five Year Plan taking into account the progress made in implementation of Eighth Plan programmes. The Working Group has proposed an outlay of Rs. 21,102 crores for forestry sector in the Ninth Plan including afforestation of around 15 million hectares.

(iv) The Planning Commission has also issued guidelines to all the State Governments for