

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2715
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.03.2020

Forest Area in West Bengal

2715. SHRI DILIP GHOSH:

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

- (a) the total forest area in the State of West Bengal;
- (b) whether the forest area in West Bengal is declining, if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor and the steps taken to check its decline;
- (c) whether any proposal has been received by the Government for diversion of forest land from West Bengal during the last five years; and
- (d) the details of such sanctioned forest based projects and those pending for approval by the Union Government along with the funds allocated in the State of West Bengal during the last three years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) & (b) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry, carries out assessment of the country's forest cover biennially and publishes its findings in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). As per ISFR 2019, the recorded forest area of West Bengal is 11,879 square kilometer (km²). There has been no decline in the recorded forest area of the State compared to the previous assessment reported in ISFR 2017. However, the forest cover in the State has increased by 54.51 km² compared to the previous assessment.
- (c) & (d) In the last five years, a total of 22 proposals have been received by the Ministry from Government of West Bengal for approval to use forest land for non-forestry purpose under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Final approval has been given by the Ministry in six (6) cases and in-principle approval in twelve (12) cases. Remaining four (4) cases have been returned to the Government of West Bengal for providing complete information. At present, no proposal from West Bengal is pending in the Ministry for approval. Details are given in **Annexure**. In cases of approval of use of forest land for non-forestry purpose, compensatory levies are deposited in the Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) funds.

A total sum of Rs. 42.20 Crore was released by Adhoc CAMPA to the State of West Bengal during the last three years (2016-17 to 2018-19).

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2715 regarding 'Forest Area in West Bengal' due for answer on 06.03.2020

Details of proposals received by Government of India from Government of West Bengal during the last five years seeking approval for use of forest land for non-forestry purpose						
S. No.	Financial Year	No of proposals received	Final Approval		Status of remaining proposals (No pendency at Govt. of India level)	
			No.	Total Area approved (in Ha.)	In-Principle Approval	Proposals returned to Govt. of West Bengal for providing complete information
1	2014-2015	3	2	26.98	1	0
2	2015-2016	2	1	12.288	0	1
3	2016-2017	5	0	0	4	1
4	2017-2018	7	3	106.363	3	1
5	2018-2019	5	0	0	4	1
Grand Total		22	6	145.631	12	4