Grants Sanctioned By Forest Department to Study 40 Sacred Groves in Meghalaya
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The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has said that approximately Rs 2 crore has been spent on the inventorisation of 40 sacred groves and phyto-diversity characterisation of multiple sacred groves etc., in Meghalaya.

Sacred groves are community conserved land parcels with rich biodiversity, which usually have a significant religious connotation for protecting the community and can be notified as Community Conserved Areas under Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and Biodiversity Heritage Sites under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said in reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

Replying to a question by Lok Sabha MP Vincent Pala in March last week about whether the government has undertaken any study to assess the potential of Sacred Groves in creating a sustainable future, Yadav said, over about last 8-9 years, the studies undertaken and completed for sacred groves in Meghalaya include:

- **Inventorisation (Growing Stock Assessment) of 40 Sacred Groves.**
- **Phyto-diversity and Phyto-sociological characterisation of 10 Sacred Groves having an area of 216.76 Ha.**
- **Preparation of 12 Sacred Groves management plans and boundary survey for 133 Sacred Groves.**
- **Rs 30 lakh was spent on the inventorisation (Growing Stock Assessment) of 40 Sacred Groves project (2013-14). Rs 40 lakh was spent on boundary survey for 133 Sacred Groves in 2013-14; Rs 9.36 lakh for 2014-15, and Rs 10.50 lakh in 2019-20.**
- **Rs 20 lakh was spent on Phyto-diversity and Phyto-sociological characterisation of 10 Sacred Groves having an area of 216.76 Ha (2014-15) carried out by the Department of Environmental Studies NEHU, Shillong, the Minister said.**

The Minister added that the wildlife conservation activities in the Sacred Grove notified as a community reserve amounted to Rs 101.59 lakh between 2013-2021.

Source: https://weather.com/en-IN/india/biodiversity/news/2022-04-03-study-of-40-sacred-groves-in-meghalaya