

**Title:** Need to increase forest cover area in the country.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (JOYNAGAR): Sir, nearly half of the world's original forest has been lost. Over 60 per cent of temperate broad leaf and mixed forest, around 30 per cent of the needle leaf forest, about 45 per cent of the tropical moist forest and approximately 70 per cent of the tropical dry forest have disappeared.

The greater reduction has been in Asia where about 70 per cent of the original forest cover has been lost.

The world's forest cover, not counting plantations, decreased by 13 per cent between 1960 and 1990 from 37 million square kilometres, that is, an average annual loss of about 1,60,000 square kilometres.

Forests world wide remain under extreme threat and, therefore, I urge upon the Government to increase protected areas at least up to 10 per cent in our country to improve the fast depletion of forests.