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The Environmental Transformation and Human Society: A Study on Gour Banga (19th -21st Centuries)

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Abstract

The Gour Banga region is located in the middle portion of West Bengal. During the British regime, the undivided Dinajpur and Malda districts denoted as Gour Banga. In the middle of the 19th century Gour Banga was covered with wild forest, jungle, bil, khal, various kinds of marshlands, tanks, rivers and so on. Dangerous wild beats like tiger, jackal, crocodile, snake, wild hog, deer, elephant and various kind of fish including 20 feet long boal fish, different species of birds etc. were destroyed within last two centuries. Deforestation, increase of cultivated land, collapsed of various food grains and introduced of new highbred food grain, destroyed of different jungle life giving medicine etc. are done with the environmental change. For the environmental transformation so many reasons were responsible viz. British forest policy, local zamindars, practice of hunting of the people, high hope of farmers, development of technology and tools etc. The traditional healing system also greatly affected. With the environment changes different changes are noticed in the human society. Not only the ecosystem of jungle and water, the human ecosystem also transformed in various ways in time.

Keywords: Environment, Wild animal, forest, health, Jungle, occupation, ecosystem

Introduction

Origin of the name 'Gour Banga' was from the historic Gour city. According to Cunningham the word "Gour" came from gur (molasses) where once a lot of Sugarcane and molasses could be found. Gour Banga is deferent from North Bengal. People understand the North Bengal as the hill, interesting sanctuary, Terai, Doars, tea garden various scenarios. But nothing else will be found in the districts of Malda, and two Dinajpur. Actually, this portion of land stands between southern Bengal and northern Bengal. Gour Banga is world famous for sweet mangoes. It's completely flat ground. It is included only for the administrative purpose, set under the Jalpaiguri Division. At present the place focuses through the name of Gour Banga University which comprised the colleges of Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur and Malda districts only.

Sasanka who flourished about 606 A.D. was known as the king of Karna-subrna, the rivering tract of the Padma, as well as king of Gour. During the Pala dynasty Gour became more important place in different backgrounds. The Pala king apparently established themselves originally in Bihar, and later founded the city of Gour on the south of the Kalindri.¹ After that the kings of Sen Dynasty also made the Gour as main centre of the kingdom. Not only that, Bakhtiyar Khalji made his headquarter at Gour and from that centre he established the Mahammadan rule over the greater part of Northern and Central Bengal, and attempted to subjugate Assam and Bhutan. Later, during the time of Haji Ilyas (Shamsud-din-Ilyas) Gour became more important and he reunited Eastern Bengal under Gour by defeating the ruler of that province. But Firoz Shah transferred the capital to Pandua and extended the glory of Gour in different surrounding places. Humayun remained for three month in Gour enjoying its amenities. He renamed it Jannatabad (the city of Heaven) as he disliked the word Gour, which resembled in sound the Hindustani word for a grave.² Gour has a long interesting history, but after the fall of capital of Pandua the place this area had become totally depopulated and covered over with thick jungles.³

The change of ecosystem has taken place in the whereabouts of the British Imperialism. The colonial forest policy, land use, revenue

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system, and trade disrupted the Indian ecosystem. Madhab Gadgil rightly said that "World ecosystem has been profoundly altered by western capitalism, in whose dynamic expansion other ecosystem were disrupted, first through trade and later by colonialism."⁴ Gour Banga also is not remained from the British. A lot of changes of environment has been placed in Gour Banga and its impact on human society and nature are trying to point out here.

Review of Literature

J. J. Pemberton (1854) pointed out the common floras and faunas and various jungle products including forest areas of Malda district. Then W. W. Hunter (1876) described the various jungle system and British policy to kill the ferocious wild animals and increase of cultivated land in Malda and Dinajpur district. G. E. Lambern (1912) and F. W. Strong (1912) both wrote their District Gazetteers (Malda and Dinajpur) destroying forestry of Gour Banga. M. O. Carter (1928) has mentioned more specific in Survey and Settlement Operations Report of Malda. F. O. Bell (1942) also pointed out same in Survey and Settlement Operations Report of Dinajpur district. I want to focus the present situation of Gour Banga after transformed.

Methodology

The paper is made on the basis on primary and secondary sources. Government reports, Survey Settlement Operations Reports, Gazetteers, Census Reports sources are used here. Interview from various person, data analysis and observation made the paper fulfill.

Object of the Study

The human society faced in a big challenge by environmental change and last two centuries are very important regarding this matter. The paper will focus on the common floras and faunas of Gour Banga region which are destroyed permanently within the last two centuries. The environmental transformation made a great effect on socio-economic life, health condition, and wilder ecosystem and so on, which are mentioned here. The paper tried to point out the reasons of environmental transformation in Gour Banga. The British forest policy and hunting practices of local zamindars and also peoples are responsible for this change. Local kabirajs are suffering in crisis of wild medicines due to clearance of jungles. The paper seeks various problems related with ecosystem and their reasons. Ultimate goal of the paper is to protect the environment and maintain the balance between human and nature.

Nature during the middle of 19th Century Gour Banga

During the middle of nineteenth century both districts Malda and Dinajpur of Gour Banga were covered with thick jungle, marsh, river, bush, bil and other natural scenarios. The Ganga divided the Gour Banga from Murshidabad or Plassey (famous in Nawabi regime) and it is most important river of the region. The Kalindri, Mahananda, Purnabhaha, Tangan, Pagla, Sonakhali, Suar masa, Nagar, Kulik, Chhiramati, Dhapa, Brahmani, Atrai, Garbheswari, Kankra, Jamuna, Karatoya etc. rivers made ever

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green in the 19th century Gour Banga. River banks of these rivers almost covered deep jungle and uncultivable land where no tribute came to British. The Barind or Barendrabhumi lies in eastern part of Malda district and southern portion of Dinajpur district. It was known as Katal or thorny jungle filled by various species of floras⁵ and faunas.

Major Plants and Trees

The Sal forest were scattered here and there in Dinajpur district and some parts of Malda which was known as native sal ban. J. J. Pemberton showed that in 1854 he found in Gour, are Mangoes, Coconut, Palm, Cotton Tree, Aloe, Willow Palm, Date Palm, Popul, Babool, Jack, Acacia, wild Plum, Burgut, Bamboo, (Around nine categories of bamboos were so common), Tamarisk, Sissoo, Sagoun (Teak), Muboos Toon etc. He also mention the major plants in the region are Sheal Kanta (Argemonee Mexicans), Shalook, Buro Sundhi, Ruktapudma, Sheuetpudma, Champa (Michelea Champaca), Debdaree, Harjur (Vites Quadrangularies), Gualiya Luta (Vites Paffida), Anduhs (Vites Indica), Tissee, Jam, Hijal, Tikto Shak, Bagnucha (Capparis Borrirda), Sujina, Paneeyals (Flacourtia Calaphracta), Swet Shimool, Kanak Champa, Phulsa (Grewia Asiatia), Dhaturaphul, neem, toon, Ashoura (Glycasmis Pentaphylls), Bussunga, Khutbul, Be (Agle Marmalos), Amra, Boir, Toom (Garuna Sinnata), Amla, Kamlagooree (Rottlerts Tinctoris), Bherinda (Rcinus Communis), Bhag Bherinda, moomcheea (Stillingia Sebifera), Harfararee (Phyllanthus Cheramels), Madhub lata, Jhaoo, Siotee (Rosa Involucrata), Bokphool, Koonch, Palica Mada, Palash, Nata (Ginlandilae), Amla or Imlee (Tamarindica Indica), Bandar lata (Catharto Carpus Fistula), Kanchum, Rukto Kanchum, Koocha Kanta, Babul, Sireesha, Gooya Baboola, Aum, tiol, Picaloo, Bur (Ficus Indica), Popul, Nakar, Dumur, Kantal (Artocarpus), Bural (Artocarpus Lachoochae), Sheora (Trophis Asperoe), Bukul, Khyrnee, Gab, Bur Gab, Aloog lata, Kadam, Piraloo, Moyns, Tiillhant, Indrajon, Chatim, Chota Chand (Ophyoxylan Serpenlemum), Madar (Calotrophis Gigantea), Madar Safeia, Bet, Talgachh (Borassiea Flabelliformus), Khejoor (Phoenix Sylvestris)⁶ and so on.

Major Animals

The rhinoceros were fare in Pargunnah Shikarpoor, tiger, leopard, tiger cat, ichneumon, otter, monkey, jackal, porcupine, hare, sambur, bara singha, deer, spotted deer, antelope, hog deer, hogs innumerable, wild buffalo, fox, wolf, pole cat, civet cat, wild cat, kutass, squirrel, &c. &c.⁷ Moreover, elephant and Nilgai also were common in this region.

Prominent Fishes

Ruhoo, hilsa, katal, tingra, mhoora, cowee, mullet, paptas, chulwa, crab (various species), prawn (chingree). According to F. W. Strong, different unknown species of fishes found in this region. Shol (Ophiocephalus striatus) very common and boal, a fresh water shark (Wallangoattu) famous here and incredible boal 20 feet length found in historic tank Tapandighi. Moreover, so many species of small fishes were common here.

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Birds

Major birds were duck tribe, Florican, snipe, cormorant, heron, sparrow, peacock, golden oriel, common green parrot, pelican, partridge (black and gray), jungle cock and hen, tern of various kinds, ring necked, parquets, kite, goshawk, flacon, adjutant, swallow, bulbul, cerleu (gray and black), peewit, koel, blue and green pigeon, rock pigeon, ring dove, king fisher, woodpecker, rook, jackdaw, minah, plover, ortalan, hoopoo, robin, sand martin, jay, quail, button quail, golden plover, widgeon, horned owl, white owl, common owl, kyrah, main water crow, night crow, paddy bird (four kinds), brahminee duck, sirus, ground dove, common dove, hornbill, spoonbill a variety of honey birds, tailor birds, starling gull, water wagtail, sand lark, byer, a variety of small birds.

Reptiles

Boa constrictor, gohsaup sometimes five and half feet long, cobra de capella (brown and black), python (Python molurus) two varieties grow to a length of 7 to 8 feet long, gorait, dhamna, water snakes of different kinds, tree snake, bishkopra, blood sucker, chameleon and lizards of various kinds, gheekorain (resembles a snake in its motion, but has two short legs in front) alligator, crocodile (two kinds of crocodiles kumir or bocha and ghariyal mainly found in rivers, bils and old tanks) were very common in the region.

Principal crops

The principal crops were (a) winter rice (haimantik), (b) autumn rice (bhadoi), (c) jut, (d) rape and mustard, (e) sugarcane, (f) cold water crops such as pulses, tobacco and vegetables (various species of saag). Among the autumn rice Duni, Jama, Gorbai, Sani, Chenga, Tilkaphul, Kalam, Tal sail, Jhagari, Indra sail, Malsara, Jhinga sail, Parbhot jira, Etai Dadkhani, Kanakchur, Parijat, Sonamukhi, Golapbhog, and Niluji were chiefs. Regarding the winter rice Kataribhog, Daudkhani, Dighalsaru, Darika sail, Sindur kutua etc. were famous to the people. Some other bhadoi paddies were Marua (Eleusine Coracana), Saina (Panicum frumentacum), Koda (Paspalum scrobiculatum), and China (Paricum miliaceum).⁸ Pemberton looked a vast quantity of land under indigo and mulberry cultivation. But the poppy cultivation was not seen.

Reasons behind the destruction of forests, wild animals and other floras

During the middle of the nineteenth century Gour Banga had no found any forest tribe community. Population was short and technology was primitive to cutting the trees. Jungle was an anathema to the countrymen. They always wanted the destruction of jungle and deadly animals.

Fear of Jungle

Villagers lived in fear of tigers, leopards, rhinoceros, wild buffaloes, and wolfs etc. deadly animals of jungle. A large number of cattle were killed by tiger in every year. Not only was that, men also not secured. Many of them had died by wild animals. Nobody could go alone in jungle. They went to cultivate or tending the cattle by groups near the forest side. After sunset or before sunrise wondering at country side was much dangerous. According to

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Mahesh Rangarajan in 1901-05 over a third of all deaths caused by tigers in British India were in West Bengal.⁹ Snake biting also perilous situation. Poisonous snakes are not only staying jungle, rather they were moving in crop field, pond everywhere for food. A lot of people died in snake biting. Crocodiles were also dangerous things to individuals. Many lost their live to crocodile. For that, nobody could dare get down to the water of old tanks, bils and rivers. They constantly prayed to God for safe from the deadly animals. So people needed to clean the jungle and finish of fatal animals. Moreover, jungle was an unhealthy matter to the people.

Extension of Cultivation

Maximum land of Gour Banga region covered with jungles, marshes and bils. Cultivation was continued in a little portion of lands. Cultivation system also was old ways. Major portion of the people suffered from insufficient food due to inadequate cultivable land. Actually the production or yielding rate was very low. Poverty was their constant companion. In this situation, they had to pay the rent to Zamindar. The British Govt. forced to the local Zaminders for high revenue from land. Surveyor was sent to look after scope and probability of revenue impose in every district. As a result Zaminders encouraged the cultivators to clean the jungle and increase the cultivable land. They promised to the people that newly clean land will be free or low rate rent imposed. So people started to remove the jungle.

Destruction of Wild Animals by Government and Zamindars

To protect the countrymen British Government expensed certain amount of money in each district. For example, in 1832 to 1870 Government expensed Rs. 2127.5.4 (or £212 14s. 8d.) for keeping down the wild beasts in Malda district. Average amount was given nearly £6 per year, but of course the amount was varied very considerably. Again, in 1847, the sum £24, 10s. 0d. was paid in one lump for the destruction of 196 hyaenas in Malda.¹⁰ Beside it, in Dinajpur Government cost for keeping down wild beasts were in 1800-01 the sum of £266, 1824-1829 the payment averaged £63. 4s. 0d. per annum, 1844-45 to 1848-49 £4, 10s. 0d., per annum, and from 1867-68 to 1869-70 £19. 12s. 0d. per annum.¹¹ Moreover, to do that a large number of individuals killed by wild beasts. According to the police report the deaths from wild beasts reported averaged 37 per year in Dinajpur for the five year ending 1869-70. The loss of lives by snake bite during the same period averaged 147 per year in Dinajpur.¹² On the other hand, in Malda, the number of deaths from wild beasts for the 8 years ending 1860 at 40, which would give an average of 5 for each year. The number of deaths from snake bite in the same period is 447, or an annual average of 51.¹³ By the way it should be indicated that in Jalpaiguri the sum for wild animal destruction was much more. In 1869 Rs. 1738 (£173, 16s. 0d) was paid for that purpose, because more and more wild animals lived in the forest of Jalpaiguri. Government announced and increased the rewards in 1868 that £2 for each tiger and £1 for each leopard killing.¹⁴ According to W. W. Hunter each and

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every Zamindar kept some skilled hunter to kill the wild beast in their zamindari region. At the same time so many skilled hunter of Zamindar and Europeans rewarded from the British Government. Common people also committed glorification to them. Between 1875 -1925, more than 80,000 tigers were killed with inspiration of British Government in India¹⁵. Therefore, the wild animals and their ecosystem were destroyed by the British Government.

Tribal immigration and Jungle Clearance

During the time of W. W. Hunter no forest dwelling tribes had been found in Gour Banga region. Around the first census (1872) very few Dhangars, Kols and Santals were crossing the Ganga, came to search work in this tract. They mainly engaged in indigo factories.¹⁶ But within 1931 the tribal population had increased extensively. Only Santals population stand 72145 17 souls in 1931 only in Malda. In Dinajpur their number was 130328. 18 Tribals are mainly lived in jungle or closely related with forest. They love hunting, moving, eating of wild food, tending of wild animals etc. Each tribe has their own hunting (shikar) practice in their social system. Moreover, they used different kind of trap, tools and method for hunting. Hunting dog also was used during hunt. Santals, Mundas, Oraons, Mahali, etc. including the Rajbanshis have separate hunting customs, method and tools. Santals of this region used to celebrate 'Saharai' which is known as 'Badhna Parab' festival including other festivals. This festival is organized in pouish month when the autumn crop is collected home from the field. They celebrate it for seven days, as first day 'Um' or holy bath, second day 'dākā' or finish of harvesting and eating rice, third day 'khuntou', fourth day 'jāli' fifth day 'hāku kāt kom' or fishing and hunting of crabs, sixth day 'sakrat' or drinking and eating and seventh day 'sīkar' or hunting by groups. ¹⁹ That day they had bound to go hunting by groups. Not only that day, maximum of days they were engaged in hunting during 19th and first half of the 20th centuries. Santals used fārshā, bows and arrows, net, hunting dog, hunting pipe, trap etc. Very often they had set various kind of trap in the field to kill civet cat, hog deer, wild pig etc. Sometimes, tiger, leopard also died by these traps. They hunted the animals mainly requirement of food and safety. They hunted wild pig, rabbit, tiger, leopard, fox, jackal, python, monkey, wild birds and reptiles (various tortoise also) including rats and ate their flesh. Tribal food habits and hunting practice is one of major reasons of animal destruction. Other tribes also had own hunting practice. In the first half of the 20th century tribes had achieved the technique of making poisonous arrow which was much dangerous than a gun fire. They used it to kill wild pig, tiger, leopard and crocodile etc. And the results in very soon wild animals were being destroyed. Moreover, they also used the poisonous arrows during Adina battle (14th Dec. 1932, Malda) and Aksha movement (28th June 1932, Gangarampur, Dakshin Dinajpur) and several British polices were died by the arrows of tribes.²⁰ British police department was anxious about the poisonous arrows and Superintendent of Police and District Magistrate of Dinajpur constantly requested to

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the Chief Secretary of the Bengal Government for restriction of illegal use of poisoned arrows.²¹ Finally British Government was imposed license on Santali bows and arrows in Gangarampur police station declaring order on 20th August 1932.²² However, tribal people are brave, massive and simple minded which was suitable to clean the jungle. Zamindars engaged the tribals tactically to remove the jungle and prepare for cultivation. They offered the tribes as adhi settlement or full raiyati settlement in the newly prepared land. ²³ Thus the maximum jungle was cleaned.

Environmental Change in 21st Century and its Impact

Change of floras

The Sal forest almost finished from this region only two or three newly planted Sal gardens are found at present. In Chandol (Uttar Dinajpur) and Ayera (Dakshin Dinajpur) Sal forest will be found a few new Sal timbers are reserved by the Government in these forests. Some species of Chinese date (Ziziphus Ziziphus), date palm, palm including various jangly fruits have destroyed. For example, the bamboo was nine varieties in the past, now only 4-5 species are found. One kind of thorny and small variety bamboo was found in this region locally called Beurbans. From the seeds of this bamboo villagers made delicious food. Now both the bamboo and the food are finished from the region. Big trees like hijal, shimul etc. are very rare, where once different kinds of small birds lived. ²⁴ A major portion of tanks were unclean and fill with water grass, Nal (Phragmites roxburghii), Sola (Aschynomene paludosa), such more mash plants which are being destroyed. Fisheries are being cleaned the tanks, ponds, bils and other water bodies. Fisherman or fish cultivators are using different pesticide, herbicide and other components in fishery. At the result the ecosystem of water are being changed day by day. Big fishes were live for long time in the tanks and fishing was open to all in the earlier times. This system is stopped and different communities of people are cultivating fish for high profits. Moreover, so many reptiles and wildlife destroyed during setting fire in the jungle and bamboo bushes. Bagnucha, Piraloo, Madar, Nakar, Picaloo, Sheora, Sireestha, Tissee, Bussunga, Ashours and various creeper plants are very rare now.

Birds and Animals

Tiger, leopard, civet cat, tiger cat, polecat, wild hogs, bara singha or large deer, hog deer, wild buffalo, man-eating crocodile, python, elephant, Nilgai etc. ferocious animals are finished today, which were very common in the 19th century Gour Banga. Tortoise (various species finished), mongoose, alligator, badger are very rare. Different varieties of birds like peacock, Bengali vulture, green pigeon, skylark, golden plover, some kind of owl, Kingfisher, Woodpecker etc. have destroyed. Various species of snakes are destroyed and quantity of snakes is very low now. Moreover, other birds and animals are present but less number in views. Only one bird sanctuary is situated at Raiganj in Uttar Dinajpur district.

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Agriculture and Occupations

Technology is developed with the time and parallelly the system of cultivation and demand of crops has changed. The population was small quantity and the process of cultivation depends on bull ploughs and manpower. The irrigation system fully relied on natural rains, as a result production become very little quantity. The crops were not high yielding. Various species of grass plants (spinach) where remain in the field as weeds of crops, which were used as vegetables and herbal medicine. Now, tractor, weeds destroyers (herbicides), pesticides, fertilizers etc. uses is destroying them. The paddies of Duni, Jama, Gorbai, Sani, Chenga, Tilkaphul, Kalam, Tal sail, Jhagari, Indra sail, Malsara, Jhinga sail, Parbhot jira, Etai Dadkhani, Kanakchur, Sonamukhi, Golapbhog, Niluji, Daudkhani, Dighalsaru, Darika sail, Sindur kutua etc. have been abolished in the high yielding competition of crops. M. O. Carter pointed out that in 1931 production capability of paddy something raised and stand average 18 mounds per acre (three bighas).²⁵ Nowadays production capability increased 60 mounds per acre or 20 mounds per bigha.²⁶ Non profitable crops have been destroyed for negligence of cultivation. In the 19th century all villagers depended on agriculture (Tanti, mali, napit etc. partially engaged in cultivation) and many depended on gathering on fruits, woods, hunting and fishing, but these type of job have changed now. Today, People are giving much importance in business, service and other occupations than agriculture.

Public Health

People had mainly depended on herbal or wild medicines in the past. As advantage of jungle people got medicine components, fruits, flesh, wood, fuel from the jungles. But sometimes the Jungle and damp area made unhealthy to the people. Various Jungle fevers was common to the individuals. F. W. Strong said to write the Dinajpur district gazetteers – "the place is notorious for unhealthiness." Moreover, some other revenue surveyors like Major Sherwill (1863) remarked regarding the Dinajpur district as "very unhealthy". At the same time many surveyors had resigned for that reason. All the servers noticed that the reasons of unhealthy are jungle and climate. They suggested cleaning the jungle and use of modern medicine. F. W. Strong pointed out of 2 offices remarks in this regards that "the introduction of the use of quinine, and the gradual clearance of jungle the general health of the district Dinajpur has somewhat improved in recent years (1912)." According to Major Sherwill "the north of the district is healthier than the south as there is less jungle there and fewer tanks and marshes." Again, ground water level also affected the public health and death rate. Major Rogers reported that "a remarkable relationship between a high ground water level and high spleen rates and fever mortality of the thanas, and vice versa. Thus at Porsa the ground water level was 33 feet down and the spleen rate was only 28.3 the lowest met with, while the fever death rate of 29.5 per thousand was also the lowest of all the thanas. Exactly the reverse holds good of the Ranisankoil

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circle, in which the highest ground water level coincides with the highest spleen and fever rate. Similarly Dinajpur, Birganj, and Thakurgaon thanas show high ground water level and spleen and fever rate, while those of Balurghat and Churaman have lower rates approaching those of Porsa."²⁷ Now the total geographical area of Gour Banga is 9092 sq. K.M, 28 but forest area is covered only 0.417% land.²⁹ In Malda number of reserve forest is 8 and protected forest area 5 and unclassified state forest 7. The total area including all kind of forest land is 20 sq. k.m only. On the other hand in Uttar and Dakshin Dinajpur number of reserved forest is 8, protected forest 4, and unclassified forest is 6. Total area covered by all kind of forest is 18 sq. k.m.³⁰ now the health condition is much batter and people depend on allopathic medicine and a good number of Government and private hospitals are available here. Kabiraj centric treatment (Herbal) almost is being abolished.

Attempts for Environmental Protection

The British Government had taken several steps to take information and protection of environment. In 1787 a botanical garden was established in Kolkata (Shibpur). A large variety of species of floras and faunas were identified, and statistics were written mentioning the locations of landscape. But they did not take any rigid policy to protect them. The Imperial Forest Department was established in India in 1864. District gazetteers, survey settlement reports, regional tribal report and some other statistics were made for better revenue collection and good governance. In 1878 the first forest act was circulated in India but the act of 1927 (Forest Act 1927 and the Wildlife Protection Act) was the most important to protect forest and wild animals. This act classified forest areas as Reserved Forest, Protected Forest and Village Forest. The Wild Life Protection Act of 1972 of West Bengal State Government was the landmark regarding wild life protection, where forest officials were given much power. In 1980 Govt. introduced "The Forest Conservation Act". The West Bengal Forest (Establishment and Regulation of Saw Mills and other Wood-based Industries) Rules 1982, The Biological Diversity Act 2002 were introduced. The West Bengal trees (protection and conservation in Non Forest Areas) Act 2006. According to this Act no one can cut trees (any kind) without written permission of the Government. Total recorded forest area in West Bengal (in 2007-08) is 11879 sq. k.m, of which 7054 sq. k.m is Reserve forest, 3772 sq. k.m is Protected Forest and 3053 sq. k.m is Unclassified State Forest, thus constituting 13.38% of the geographical area of the state.³¹ Moreover, Government created compulsory course on environmental science in school, colleges and researches for more awareness to young. Today Government is taking several initiative steps for protection and increase of green environment. Forest department is planting different types of new plants in protected grounds.

Suggestions and Conclusion

In the conclusion it may be said that the urbanization is increasing and green environment

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decreasing day by day. A lot of land every day is converting as homestead land for building construction for various purposes. Looking this situation Govt. of West Bengal issued the West Bengal Inland Fisheries Act 1984 and ordered no person shall put any water area including embankment measuring 5 cottahs or 0.035 hectare or more for any purpose. For the Government's various steps today, the green environment is alive. Otherwise it would have been destroyed more. Modern communication system is damaging the greenery. The 3G, 4G and 5G network also are being a challenge to the green environment. Explanation of industries and use of modern technology silently enhance the level of chemical pollution in the environment. At the result different new and critical diseases are being created. At last, it is true that the environment is always variable (since the age of dinosaurs), but it should not be expected that the environment will be changed or damaged by humans. In this regard the Government should have to take more necessary step to protect the ecosystem. Moreover, awareness camping in favour of green environment will be conducted. The Acts regarding deforestation, wildlife killing, wastage of water, filling of marshland or pond etc. should be more rigid. A big amount of money should be expense for save the environment. In addition the issues of environment will be treated as more important over the political power.

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23. Bell, F. O. *op, cit., P. 15*.
24. *Interview with Rakhana Deshi (73 years), Dhamdhol, Tilna, Itahar, Uttar Dinajpur, on 13.02.2012*.
25. Carter, M. O, (1938), *Final Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations Report in the District of Malda, Superintendent, Government Printing , Bengal Government Press, Alipore*,
27. (Calcutta) p. 33.
28. *Interview with several farmers*.
29. Strong, F. W, *op, cit., p. 59*.
30. *Malda 3733 sq. k.m, Uttar Dinajpur 3140 sq. k.m and Dakshin Dinajpur 2219sq. k.m*.
31. *Malda 20 sq. k.m, Uttar and Dakshin Dinajpur 18 sq. k.m*.
32. *West Bengal Annual Forest Report 2014-15, Government of West Bengal*, p. 13.
33. *West Bengal State Forest Report 2007-08*, p. 14.