

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 704
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2018

Expansion of reserve forest

704. SHRI G.C. CHANDRASHEKHAR:

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

- (a) the locations where Supreme Court has given direction to Government to acquire private projects adjacent to Western Ghats reserve forest in Sakleshpura Taluk, Hassan District, Karnataka;
- (b) whether the funds for Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) be utilised to expand the reserve forest so as to conserve and protect wildlife; and
- (c) whether the elephant corridor would be connected in villages near Sakleshpura, which are Arani, Mavinoor, Boranamane, Betta Kumari, Bajemane, Yathahalla, Yade Kumbri and Balehalla?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) As per the directions of the Central Empowered Committee of Hon'ble Supreme Court to the Government of Karnataka, the State was directed to constitute a committee of experts to identify and consider the feasibility of acquiring the private enclosures having dense natural forests, which have no areas or only small areas under plantation /cultivation and which are located within or adjoining the Reserve Forests or Wildlife Sanctuaries in Kodagu District and other Districts within the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats Region, to prevent their further fragmentation and destruction.
- (b) As per The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules, 2018 the fund can be utilized for conservation, Afforestation and enrichment of the existing reserve forest. The CAMPA fund can be utilized for voluntary relocation of villages from the protected areas for conservation and protection of wildlife in the protected areas. The CAMPA fund cannot be utilize for purchase of non-forest land for afforestation purpose.

- (c) The farmers of the 8 Villages namely Arani, Mavinoor, Boranamane, Betta Kumari, Bajemane, Yathahalla, Yade Kumbri and Balehalla have requested the forest and revenue department in 2012 to acquire their private land on payment of due compensation. As per the government order APAGEE 139 FAF 2012 Bengaluru dated: 22.02.2014 in compliance with the Honorable Supreme Court order in petition 202/95 IA 2530-2531/2009 on recommendation of CEC and as directed in WP No. 14029/2008 in Honorable High Court of Karnataka, the District level committees were set up in the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner of Hassan District. The Government of Karnataka has allotted Rs.50 crore for the project during the financial year 2018-19.
