

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. 234
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2023

Amendments in the Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980

*234. SHRI BRIJLAL:

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

- (a) whether Government is contemplating on amending the 40 years old Forest Conservation Act and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has constituted any committee in this regard and if so, whether the committee has submitted its report, if so, the details thereof and if not, by when the report is likely to be submitted; and
- (c) whether Government has held any conversation with all stakeholders and State Governments regarding the amendments in this law and if so, the details thereof and their reaction thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

- (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 234 to be answered on 10.08.2023 on “Amendments in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980” by Shri Brijlal

- (a) to (c) The Central Government has moved the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023 to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. As per the provisions of the Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy of the Government of India, the public consultation was made by the Ministry and a concept paper was circulated including in the vernacular languages. The comments received from the Public and States were kept in view while finalizing the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023.

The Bill was referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee on 29.03.2023 by the Parliament. The Joint Committee, keeping in view the importance of the Bill and its wide ranging implications, invited view from the public in general and experts/NGOs and other organization in particulars on the provisions of the Bill. The Committee received 1309 memoranda. The Committee also undertook the study tour of Srinagar, Guwahati and Bhubaneswar from 2.06.2023 to 7.06.2023 where deliberations were held with 14 other States/Union territories including all North Eastern States and remaining Left Wing Extremism Affected States i.e. Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. Besides this, the Committee also held discussions with various other stakeholders organizations and PSUs such as Army Northern Command (XV Corps), Border Road Organization (BRO), Border Security Forces (BSF), Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), Directorate General of Hydrocarbon and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation on various provisions of the Bill. The points raised by the experts/stakeholders and public along with the comments of the Nodal Ministry were suitably incorporated in the report.
