

Government of India
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2422

To be answered on

Thursday, August 10, 2023/Sravana 19, 1945 (Saka)

QUESTION

Traditional institutions

2422. Shri Rakesh Sinha:

Will the Minister of Development of North Eastern Region be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that traditional institutions play vital role in Meghalaya's society and economy, in view of the developmental planning based on soliciting the support of such institutions which include Hima (kingdom);
- (b) the institutions and traditions which are helpful in protecting ecology;
- (c) whether Government will consider to include Sacred Forests in their agenda of development as these forests are essentially protected by the communities; and
- (d) whether Government will consider involvement of the local communities in development of the tribal regions of the State of Meghalaya?

ANSWER

**The Minister of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
[Shri G. Kishan Reddy]**

(a) and (b) Institutions such as traditional village durbars in Meghalaya play a vital role in Meghalaya's society and economy, inter alia environmental conservation and raising awareness about sustainable practices. The traditions such as conservation of sacred groves, prevention of over-exploitation of natural resources such as forests; managing springs and other water sources wisely, customary law discouraging hunting of wild animals, are helpful in protecting ecology.

(c) Government of Meghalaya has already notified several sacred forests as Community Reserves under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Also, the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats and the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) of the Government have brought development to the communities by providing them alternative livelihood opportunities.

(d) Local communities and traditional institutions in Meghalaya are already involved in developmental planning, providing support to Village Employment Councils, identification of beneficiaries of various government programmes, making available community land for construction projects, Management of Community Reserves, etc. for development of tribal regions in the State.
