

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UASTARRED QUESTION NO. 849
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2023

**Consent of Ministry of Tribal Affairs in proposing amendments to Forest
(Conservation) Act, 1980**

849. SHRI ANEEL PRASAD HEGDE:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has coordinated with and taken consent of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in proposing amendments to Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, as is mandatory as per Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 and Forest Rights Act, 2006; and
- (b) whether the Ministry has followed recommendations of DPSC on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change in its 324th report on 'Status of Forest in India', required compliance with aforesaid Rules while proposing to Parliament any matter relating to forests & forest rights, if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) & (b) Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023 has been proposed after carrying out inter-ministerial, State and public consultation. A note on the Bill has been circulated to all Ministries, including M/o Tribal Affairs. Moreover, a concept paper indicating the amendments proposed in the Act was also circulated among the general public for their comments as per the provisions of Pre-Legislative Consultation Policy of the Government of India. Based on the comments received from the Ministries, Public and stakeholders, including in vernacular languages, the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023 has been finalized by the MoEF&CC.

The provisions of the proposed Bill are in line with the policies of the government and international commitments, which is very well reflected in its preamble. Moreover the proposed Bill primarily intends to eliminate the ambiguities in the applicability of the Act in various lands and to combat the global issues pertaining to climate change, carbon neutrality, NDC, etc.
