

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1254
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2018

Destruction of Sacred Groves

1254. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that the destruction of sacred groves are increasing in the country, if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to protect sacred groves;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to implement special package for protection and maintenance of sacred groves in private land by providing compensation equivalent to the market value of land and rehabilitation package and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it comes to the notice of the Government that the certain owners of land have destroyed the ecosystem and sacred groves during division/sharing of family property and if so, the action taken by the Government to protect the secret groves private land;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding sacred groves in private land in Kerala, if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government to protect the sacred groves without infringing the right to property owners?

ANSWER

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

- (a) This Ministry is not in receipt of any specific information/report that the destruction of sacred groves are increasing in the country. The State and Union Territory Governments take appropriate measures to protect the sacred groves. This Ministry under the erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Intensification of Forest Management Scheme provided financial assistance to all State/UT Governments for various forest protection measures including protection and conservation of sacred groves.
- (b) This Ministry has no proposal to implement special package for protection and maintenance of sacred groves in private land by providing compensation equivalent to the market value of land and rehabilitation package.
- (c) This Ministry has not received any specific information/report that certain owners of land have destroyed the ecosystem and sacred groves during division/sharing of family property.
- (d) As per the information received from Kerala Forest Department, no study has been conducted regarding sacred groves in private land in Kerala.
- (e) The State and Union Territory Governments take appropriate measures to protect the sacred groves, as per their respective acts, rules and regulation.
