

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2348
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2018

Conservation and Protection of Forests

2348. SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has received feedback from various stakeholders on the level of conservation and protection of forests in the country;
- (b) the mechanism adopted to ascertain non-inhabitation/encroachment of forest lands, particularly reserved forests by tribal people or criminals;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to get all protected and other kinds of forests rid of human habitations within the forest areas in a time bound manner, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The Ministry has not received any specific feedback from various stakeholders on the level of conservation and protection of forests in the country.
- (b) The forest officials of State/Union Territory (UT) Forest Departments having jurisdiction of the forest area concerned, demarcate forest boundaries, erect boundary pillars and undertakes frequent patrolling to ascertain any encroachment of forest lands. The State/UT Forest Departments deal the encroachment issues in forest areas as per the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, various acts of State/UT Governments and the rules and regulations made there under.
- (c) & (d) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat' and 'Project Tiger', there already exist a provision of voluntary relocation of people residing inside Wildlife Sanctuaries/ National Parks and Tiger Reserves as per the options given below:

Option I – Payment of the entire package amount (Rs. 10 lakhs per family) to the family in case the family opts so, without involving any rehabilitation and relocation process by the Forest Department.

Option II – Carrying out relocation and rehabilitation of village from protected area and tiger reserve by the Forest Department.

The payment of relocation of villages under the scheme is carried out as per the option given by the villagers.
