

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4627**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2018

**Dependence of People on Forest**

4627. ADV. JOICE GEORGE:  
SHRI J.J.T. NATTERJEE:

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

- (a) whether more than half the families in villages lying on the periphery of forests have no land and average income for a majority of households is less than Rs. 8,000 a month and if so, the details thereof
- (b) whether the Forest Act, 1927 is a colonial-era law that penalises locals for using the forest as a resource and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is of the opinion that high rate of forest-related crimes reflects the dependence of people on the forest;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) No such information is maintained at Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- (b) No, Madam. As per provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, inter-alia, the activities such as encroachment and unauthorized extraction and utilization of forest resources are punishable offences.
- (c) & (d) No, Madam.
- (e) In order to protect the interest of forest dependent people, Government has legislated “the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, “ The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, “The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 etc.

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