

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 54
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2018

Preservation of Forests

54. SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government encourages private sector participation in conservation and preservation of forests;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the fundamental framework developed by the Government to raise forests on private lands;
- (c) whether the Government is considering granting tax exemptions and compensations to those private citizens who proposed to raise forests on the big areas of land available with them; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time frame by which the Government expects to implement the same?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) The responsibility of Protection, conservation and management of the forests primarily lie with the respective State and UT Governments. However, National Forest Policy, 1988 envisages participation of other sector such as farmers and institutions in conservation and preservation of forests. The policy prescribes that the forest-based industry should raise the raw material needed for meeting its own requirements with the involvement of local people in raising trees and raw-material on their own land. Policy also encourages small and marginal farmers to grow tree on marginal/degraded lands available with them especially required for industries including fuel and fodder tree species.

Various afforestation and tree plantation activities are undertaken by the State Governments under social forestry/ farm forestry scheme with the involvement of local people and communities. The private sector also undertakes the plantation activities on private lands under corporate social responsibility programme.

- (c) & (d) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has no such scheme under which tax exemptions and compensations are given to private citizens who proposed to raise forests on the big areas of land available with them.
