

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 6605
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2018

National Forest Policy

6605. SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:
ADV. M. UDHAYAKUMAR:
SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has come out with a new draft national forest policy and if so, the details thereof along with the salient features of the policy;
- (b) whether the said policy calls for promoting urban greens, public-private partnership models for afforestation, strengthening forest fire prevention measures and plantations in catchment areas to rejuvenate water bodies and setting up of National Community Forest Management and National Board of Forestry, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the new policy is needed to face challenges of climate change, human wildlife conflict and deteriorating environments and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the new draft policy fails to mention or address the degradation of growing stock in the natural forests, if so, the details thereof and the response of the Union Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Union Government has received comments/suggestions from the General public/stakeholders/experts on the new draft policy and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and
- (f) whether most of the objectives mentioned in earlier 1988 policy have not been met so far and if so, the reasons therefor and the response of the Union Government thereto?

ANSWER

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

- (a)to(e) Yes Madam. The overall goal and objectives of the draft National Forest Policy, 2018 is safe guarding the ecological and livelihood security of the people of the present and future generations based on sustainable management of the forest for the flow of ecosystem services. In order to achieve the national goal for the eco-security, the country should have a minimum of one third of the total land area under forest and tree cover.

The other major objectives of draft National Forest Policy are maintenance of environmental stability and conservation of biodiversity through preservation and conservation of natural forests, exercising strict restriction on the diversion of

forest lands for non forestry purposes; promotion of urban greens; management of protected and wildlife rich areas for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services and promotion of trees outside forests by incentivizing agroforestry and farm forestry, treatment of catchment areas, setting up of National Community Forest Management (CFM) mission and National Board of Forestry etc.

Further the new draft policy is addressing in detail the challenges of climate change; human wildlife conflicts and deterioration of the environment; degradation of natural forest and its growing stock as part of the strategies to achieve the objectives of the policy. The draft National Forest Policy has been published for comments from general public and stakeholders with a time frame of 14th April, 2018.

- (f) The major objectives of the National Forest Policy 1988 have been achieved as evident from the increasing forest and tree cover and growing stock of forests in the country.
