

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1686
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2018

Forest Policy

1686. SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently released a draft forest policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the said draft policy does not protect the interests of the tribals; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had placed the Draft National Forest Policy, 2018 in public domain for comments for one month till 14th April, 2018.
- (c) to (d) The basic thrust of the Draft National Forest Policy of 2018 is for conservation, protection and management of forests along with addressing other issues associated with forest and forest management. To protect the interest of tribals, the Draft Policy of 2018 proposes to launch Community Forest Management Mission for management of community forest resources through a participatory forest management approach. Moreover, specific provisions have been made in the draft Policy to ensure that the interests of local communities are protected and also provisions are made to consider them as partner in management of forests.

In addition, forest rights of tribals and other traditional forest dwellers are safeguarded under a separate Act, namely, "The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest dwellers (Recognition of Forest Right) Act, 2006" (Forest Rights Act, 2006) which recognizes and vests the forest rights of the Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not vested.
