

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4080
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2018

Commercial Plantation in Forest

4080. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government plans to allow plantations of 'commercially important species' such as teak, eucalyptus and bamboo in forest lands and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has assessed the impact of monoculture plantations on bio-diversity and the local ecology, as well as displacements and violations of the rights of tribal and forest dwelling communities and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government plans to work with tribal people to improve productivity of native species and encourage farmers to grow more trees with their crops; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) The National Forest Policy, 1988 (NFP 1988) has envisaged production forestry programmes for enhancing the forest cover in the country and meeting national needs along with narrowing the increasing gap between demand and supply of fuelwood. This has again been emphasized in the recently prepared Draft National Forest Policy, 2018 which proposes that the forest plantations will be improved by intensive scientific management of forest plantations of commercially important species like teak, sal, sisham, poplar, gmelina, eucalyptus, casuarina, bamboo etc on degraded & underutilized forest lands which are not earmarked for natural regeneration. Ministry has not assessed the impact of monoculture plantations on bio-diversity and the local ecology, as well as displacements of forest dwelling communities, if any.
- (c) & (d) The National Forest Policy, 1988 encourages associating the tribal people in the protection, regeneration and development of forests as well as to provide gainful employment to people living in and around the forest. NFP 1988 also encourages farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers, to grow fuel and fodder species and wood species required for industries on marginal/degraded lands available with them and on community lands. The Draft National Forest Policy of 2018 has proposed that tribals and local people shall be associated in forest management through participatory forest management under the National Community Forest Management Mission for undertaking massive tree plantation and for managing community forest resources.

Further, the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) encourages the plantation of native forest species in forest areas giving importance to trees with multiple uses. The NAP scheme empowers Joint Forest Management Committees for species selection based on needs and ecological conditions along with local factors in consultation with the State Forest Department. The Green India Mission also encourages tribal people and farmers to grow more trees within selected landscape by the State Government.
