

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 644
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2018

Protection of Western Ghats Forest Areas

644. DR. P. VENUGOPAL:

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

- (a) whether Western Ghats' forest cover is vital for Tamil Nadu's monsoon rainfall and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Western Ghats forests yield as much 3 mm per day of rainfall in August-September and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any damage to the forest of Western Ghats is likely to affect the rainfall in Tamil Nadu; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the Western Ghats forest area should not be affected on account of developmental activities?

ANSWER

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

- (a), (b) & (c) Forests are important for soil and moisture conservation and micro climate of any region, including Western Ghats and are vital for the rainfall pattern in an area.
- (d) As per the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and rules made therein, no non-forestry activities can be permitted in forest areas in the States without the prior approval of Central Government.
