

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4547
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2019

Forest Cover

4547. SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY:

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

- (a) whether in order to improve forest cover the Ministry proposes to enhance powers of police and bureaucrats in dealing with forest tribals and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the measures being taken to discourage forest dwellers with respect to illegal encroachments and cattle herds which causes destruction of forests?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) Protection, conservation and management of forests including activities related to increasing and improving the forest cover in the country are carried out as per the existing National Forest Policy, 1988; the Indian Forest Act, 1927; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; Biological Diversity Act, 2002; forest related specific Acts and Rules of the respective State/UT Governments and as per the prescriptions of Working Plan/ Management Plan prepared under Working Plan Code. Under these Acts and Rules made thereunder, various powers have been delegated to the forest officials /police officials to carry out various activities in forest for protection, conservation and management of forests including prevention of forest crimes. Government believes tribals and forest dwellers as partners in afforestation and forest protection. “Vangram’ and many other schemes are in operation.

To increase the forest cover and improvement of forests, the Ministry implements various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and Green India Mission (GIM). The National Afforestation Programme is for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas through people’s participation.

- (b) The primary responsibility of protection of forests from various threats including encroachment lies with the respective State/UT Governments. The Ministry has issued advisories to all States/UTs from time to time to remove encroachment and ensure that no further encroachment takes place as per the existing Acts/ Rules. Tribals and other forest dwellers are involved through Joint Forest Management Committees in the management of forests and various afforestation activities.
