

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.4169
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2023

Decriminalisation of Indian Forest Act

4169. DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY:
SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:
SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK:
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (RAJU BHAIYA):
DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI BHOLA SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has proposed amendments to decriminalise the existing provisions of the the Indian Forest Act, 1927;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has issued the draft amendments for public consultations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of violations under the Act during the last three years, State-wise; and
- (f) other steps being taken by the Government for protection of forests in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) &(b) The Central Government has proposed to bring an amendment to the Indian Forest Act, 1927 for decriminalisation of certain sections, viz. section 26 (1) (d) and (e) and section 33 (1) (e), (f) and (g) of the said Act.
- (c) &(d) The Central Government had placed a Notice for Public Consultation for decriminalisation of certain minor offences under the Indian Forest Act (IFA), 1927. Comments from State/ Union Territory Governments were also sought. Comments/suggestions received from all concerned Stakeholders were examined and incorporated, as deemed fit, in the final bill.
- (e)&(f) The State/UT Government takes appropriate actions in accordance with the provisions made under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and other Central and State Specific Acts/ Rules for violations of the Acts. Accordingly, details of violations are not compiled at the level of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

To protect the forests, Ministry supports the efforts of the States/ UTs in prevention and control of forest fire by providing financial assistance for various forest fire

prevention and management measures such as modern tools for fire extinguishing, use of communication and information technology, etc creation and maintenance of fire lines in forest areas, engagement of fire watchers, creation of water storage structures in forest areas, strengthening of forest infrastructure, procurement of firefighting equipment, soil and moisture conservation works in high risk areas, awareness creation, incentivizing villages/communities for protection against forest fire etc. under the Centrally Sponsored Forest Fire Prevention and Management (FFPM) Scheme. The FFPM scheme strengthens the State Forest Departments for preparedness, response, control and mitigation of forest fire in the country. This Ministry has established Disaster Management Control Room having a toll free helpline number (1800119334) for coordination with States and different Ministries for forest fire and chemical disaster related issues. In order to restore ecosystems and increase the forest cover including conservation of forests in the country, afforestation and tree plantation activities including other forestry activities are undertaken by States/UTs. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) provides financial assistance to States/UTs under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes to support and supplement the efforts of States and Union Territories.