

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 630**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2023

**Forest Conservation Rules, 2022**

630. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:

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

- (a) whether the Government undertook public consultation while framing the Forest Conservation Rules, 2022, if so, the details thereof including engagement with forest-dwelling communities;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Forest Conservation Rules 2022 diverge from previous rules in 2007 and 2019 in terms of taking away rights of forest dwellers to consent to any diversion project in forest areas;
- (c) whether said rules will let private developers cut down forests without first ensuring the consent of the forest dwellers;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the new Forest Conservation Rules will allow exchange of private and deemed forests for compensatory afforestation; and?
- (e) whether it is a fact that National Commission for Scheduled Tribes recommended placing the FCA Rules on hold as they would amount to infringing on the tribal land rights?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) Keeping in view the provisions contained in the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022 have been notified in exercise of the powers vested with the Central Government under Section 4 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for implementation of the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Moreover, the notified rules have also been laid on the table of both Houses of the Parliament i.e. in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- (b)& (c) The Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022 have been promulgated to implement the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. These Rules emphasize the compliance of the provisions of all other Acts and Rules and do not impede with the provisions of any other Act.
- (d) The Forest(Conservation)Rules, 2022 inter-alia provide that for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation, a user agency shall provide land which is neither notified as forest under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 or any other law nor managed as forest by the Forest Department.

- (e) In response to the concerns raised by the Chairperson, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, the Ministry has informed that the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2022 have been promulgated to implement the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. These Rules do not abrogate the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 or the statutory powers of the Gram Sabhas.

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