

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1485**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.03.2021

**Conservation of Shorea robusta forests**

1485 SHRI BRIJLAL:

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

- (a) whether the forests of Sakhu (Shorearobusta) which are found in the lowlands of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, provide the strongest timber in the world and the wood of this tree was earlier used as sleepers below the railway tracks and gradually the forests of strong woods like Sakhu are shrinking;
- (b) if so, whether there is any scheme under consideration to save and expand the area of the said forests; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) Yes Sir. Sal (Shorearobusta) was earlier used as sleeper below the railway tracks. However, as per Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 18.02.2002, the same has been banned now. There is no specific assessment regarding increase or decrease of Sal forests. However, as per India State of Forest Report -2019, there has been a net increase in the overall forest area of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- (b) to (c) The forest in the country is being managed as per provisions of approved working plans, which is the main instrument of forest planning in the country for scientific management of forests. The Sal (Shorearobusta) forest are protected and managed under the provisions of Indian Forest Act 1927, approved working plans and schemes through appropriate silvicultural prescriptions in different working circles.

Further, the State Government and UT administration take care of conservation and maintenance of forests. The Central Government supplements their effort by providing necessary technical support and financial assistance to the States/UT under various schemes including National Afforestation Programme, Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), Green India Mission, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats and Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme implemented by the Ministry which also contribute to conservation of forests including Shorea robusta.

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