

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 698
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2021

Collaboration with tribals to increase forest cover

698. SHRIBHASKARRAONEKKANTI:

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

- (a) whether there are schemes in place to encourage collaboration with local tribes or groups to improve forest coverage;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c) Various schemes are being implemented by Central and State Government to improve the forest coverage in the country. These include National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and Green India Mission (GIM) being implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes/funding sources such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, PradhanMantriKrishiSinchayee Yojana, Compensatory Afforestation Funds, PradhanMantriUjjwalaYojana and under various schemes of State Government /UT Administration.

NAP is a scheme for ecological restoration of degraded forest and adjoining areas through people's participation. The scheme is implemented through 3 tiers institutional setup of State Forest Development Agency (SFDA) at State level, Forest Development agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at Village level. JFMCs consist of forest dependent communities including local tribes. GIM is one of the ongoing eight Missions outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. The afforestation activities under GIM are being implemented through JFMCs which consists of forest dependent communities including local tribes. Under PradhanMantriUjjwalaYojana implemented by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, financial support for LPG connection is provided to forest dwellers which help them to reduce their dependence on forest for fuel wood collection and thereby helping in forest conservation.

Under Forest Right Act, 2006, Community Forest Rights has been recognized for such tribal communities and traditional forest right dwellers who are traditionally residing in vicinity of forest. It empowers local tribal communities to conserve and manage their forest resources.
