

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2922
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.03.2021

Collaboration with tribals for forest cover

2922. SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN:

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 cover;
- (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) The National Forest Policy, 1988 provides that all agencies responsible for forest management including the forest development corporations should associate the tribal people closely in the protection, regeneration and development of forests as well as to provide gainful employment to people living in and around the forest. Further it provides that, fuel wood needs be substituted as far as practicable with alternate sources like bio-gas, LPG and solar energy, and fuel-efficient "Chulhas" as a measure of conservation of fuel wood be popularised in rural areas.

Various schemes are being implemented by Central and State Governments to improve forest cover 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 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 Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, 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.
