

discussed because of this situation. So, we are becoming helpless. Members should know what the important issues which were admitted are. Members are present. They wanted to speak but they were not permitted by you. ...(*Interruptions*)... I adjourn the House to meet at 12 o'clock.

The House then adjourned at eight minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at twelve of the clock,
MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF BUSINESS

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to inform that a Supplementary List of Business has been issued today regarding laying of a sensitive Notification on the Table. The Supplementary List has been uploaded on the Rajya Sabha website and the Members' portal. ...(*Interruptions*)... Question Hour...(*Interruptions*)..

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir, the hon. LoP wants to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid; Dr. Bhagwat Karad. ...(*Interruptions*)... Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman. ...(*Interruptions*)... Nothing except the Minister's statement is going on the record. ...(*Interruptions*)...

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE - *Contd.*

Notifications of the Ministry of Finance

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Sir, I lay on the Table, under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) Notification No. 38/2021-Customs, dated the 26th July, 2021, along with an Explanatory Memorandum thereon, seeking to amend :

(1) Notification No. 50/2017 - Customs dated 30th June, 2017, to reduce the basic customs duty:-

(i) From 10% to Nil on Lentils (Masur) [HS 0713 40 00] originated in or exported from countries other than USA; and

(ii) From 30% to 20% on Lentils (Masur) [HS 0713 40 00] originated in or exported from USA. ...(*Interruptions*)...

(2) Notification No. 11/2021-Customs, dated the 1st February, 2021, to reduce the Agriculture Infrastructure Development Cess on Lentils (Masur) [HS 0713 40 00] from present rate of 20 % to 10% .

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 4370/17/21]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Criteria to define forest and forest land under dispute

* 61. SHRI RAKESH SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) how the forest is defined/formed and whether there is any specific criteria;
- (b) the total forest area and waste land area in the country, State-wise;
- (c) the area of land under Section-4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, State-wise;
- (d) the area of forest land under dispute and being claimed by individuals or villages; and
- (e) steps taken to resolve such disputes?

THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

- (a) The word “forest” is not defined in any Central Forest Act, namely, the Indian Forest Act 1927 (IFA 1927), or the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The Central Government has not laid down any criterion to define forest.
- (b) As per India State of Forest Report, 2019 (ISFR 2019), published by Forest Survey of India (FSI), an organisation under the administrative control of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the Recorded Forest Area of the country is 7,67,419 Sq. Kms. As per the Wasteland Atlas, 2019