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Title: Regarding the drafting of Forest Policy for protection of untouched forests.

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYNAGAR): Sir, India's forests are currently governed by the National Forest Policy of 1988, an update to which is the need of the hour. Key policies regarding forests and forest management are either missing, delayed or left open-ended as of date. For example, at present, there is no clear definition of forest that is accepted nationally and States are left to determine their definition of forests. There exists no clear rule regarding protection of untouched forests. This is the reason why, numerous plots of forest areas are lost. Several Government reports over the past five years have pushed for the involvement of the private sector in managing the forests, this is a huge threat to the tribal population. Even though the forest coverage area has increased since 2017, the same has decreased when seen in perspective of tribal inhabited areas.

Thus, I request the Minister to come up with a Forest Policy which will protect both, environment and people depending on forest produce as soon as possible. This will help in preventing the indiscriminate fall of trees.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : श्री डी.एन.वी. सेंथिलकुमार एस. को श्रीमती प्रतिमा मण्डल द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।

