

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1616
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2000
BAN ON FORESTRY ACTIVITIES
WANGCHA RAJKUMAR

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to take the measures to compensate and ameliorate, the abject economic hardship faced by a sizeable tribal population of the North-Eastern States, in view of the prevailing ban on the forestry activities;
- (b) if so, the specific steps undertaken or proposed to be undertaken, for the resumption of forestry activities;
- (c) whether Government are monitoring the performance of the respective State Governments to implement various directives; and
- (d) if so, the observations made in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a) & (b) Hon`ble Supreme Court in Civil Writ Petition No.202/95, reiterating the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, directed vide order dated 12.12.1996 that felling in forests can be done only as per working plans approved by Government of India. Hon`ble Court has also imposed complete ban on transportation of timber and timber products from North-Eastern States to rest of the country. Taking into account the perception of the Ministry about weak infrastructure in the North-Eastern Region and large dependency of the local people on the forest resources, Hon`ble Supreme Court vide order dated 15.1.1998 modified the above order allowing transportation of felled timber as well as directed that working plans should be prepared in the North-Eastern States within a period of two years and in the interregnum the forest shall be worked according to the annual felling programme approved by the Ministry.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. There has been slow progress in implementation of the various directives given by Hon`ble Supreme Court in the North-Eastern States.