

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:764

ANSWERED ON:12.07.2004

EFFECTS OF RESERVATION AND DERESERVATION OF FOREST AREAS

Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

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

- (a) whether notifications issued by the Government for reservation and dereservation of forest areas from time to time are not brought to the notice of the general public through media publicity;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the Government's programme for rehabilitation of people and industry affected by such declaration in metropolitan cities;
- (d) whether the Government is considering to grant concessions in areas where industry was already functioning before or after implementation of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) According to the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, it is the duty of the Forest Settlement Officer to publish a proclamation in the local vernacular in every town and village in the neighbourhood of the land which is proposed to be reserved specifying the location, explaining the consequences and requiring every person claiming any rights to forward his claim within a period of not less than three months. After settlement of rights, at the time of final notification also, the forest officer is required to cause a translation of reservation notification in the local vernacular in every town and village in the neighbourhood of the forest. In case of dereservation, the State Government is required to publish the notification in the Official Gazette.

From the above it is clear that there is print media publicity through Gazette notification and proclamation in local vernacular at the local level. There is no specific mandatory provision of other forms of media (Newspaper, Radio and Television) publicity or any provision to the contrary. The action lies at the level of the State Government.

(c) to (e) In the process of reservation under Indian Forest Act, 1927, claims preferred by all, including industry, affected by such declaration are settled by Forest Settlement Officer. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 does not deal with the reservation of forest land and so the question of any concession under the Act does not arise.