

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1884
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2004
CREATION OF FOREST BASED EMPLOYMENT
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage and the number of tribals still depending on the forests;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to encourage the natural production of valuable herbs of the forests by tribals;
- (c) whether there is any proposal under consideration to use different kinds of forest land for creating employment as 30 per cent of the land is covered by forests;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the efforts made by the Government for increasing forest based employment?

Answer

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

- (a) Large number of tribal population is dependent on forests. However, estimates of percentage and number are not available at the macro level .
- (b) The Government of India have set up National Medicinal Plants Board to encourage natural production of valuable herbs in the form of in-situ conservation and cultivation of such plants in the country. During the last three years more than 1500 projects, have been sanctioned to various Government Organizations, individuals, Non Government Organizations etc. for conservation and production of medicinal plants in the country including tribal areas also.
- (c), (d) and (e) The Government have provided employment and livelihood opportunities, through the Joint Forest Management programme and by implementing National Afforestation Programme through Forest Development Agencies, in the states which is targeting 104 million mandays wage employment during 10th Five Year Plan.