

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2020  
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2004  
EXTRACTION OF MINOR FOREST PRODUCE IN MANIPUR  
Charenamei Shri Mani

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

- (a) whether forest areas other than the reserved areas are owned by the tribal communities in the North East India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Mahal system of extraction of minor forest produce is enforced in Forest Areas other than reserved forests in the State of Manipur;
- (d) if so, the details of the items of minor forest produce (s) extracted on Mahal system;
- (e) whether the tribal communities have raised objections against the extraction of minor forest produce particularly Bamboo and canes on Mahal system; and
- (f) if so, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

- (a) & (b) The tribal communities exercise their right over minor Forest Produce and shifting cultivation in Forest areas other than reserved areas in some of the States such as Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya.
- (c) & (d) Yes, Sir. The Mahal system of extraction of Minor Forest Produce is applied on Cane, Bamboo, Sand, Stone, Broom, Dalchini, Thatching grass and Long pepper.
- (e) & (f) Objections to Mahal system were raised in Tamenglong district of Manipur. In the lease agreement, there are safeguards to protect the interest of the tribal communities as well as clauses to take care of conservation measures.