

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4770
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2010
ATROCITIES AGAINST TRIBALS
Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar; Tirkey Shri Manohar

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

- (a) whether his Ministry has received a letter from the Ministry of Home Affairs pointing out thereto unlawful activities and malpractices of the Forest Department in Madhya Pradesh and its atrocities against the tribals;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter; and
- (c) the action taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (b) A Demi-Official letter dated 7th June 2010 from Union Home Secretary with a note regarding forest management in scheduled areas of the State of Madhya Pradesh has been received in the Ministry of Environment and Forest. The allegations pointed out in the letter have been denied by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(c) A Consultative meeting was held in the Ministry on 23rd July, 2010 and 7th August, 2010 with Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and other Field Officers from Naxal Affected States and Social Activists, wherein the issues such as defreezing of ban on recruitments to Group 'C' and 'D' posts, synergy between Gram Sabhas and Joint Forest Management Committees

(JFMCs), strengthening of forest infrastructure for frontline staffs including improvement of mobility, and increased role of Forest Departments in other developmental activities like improving school infrastructure, drinking water supply, sanitation and health, road communication, etc., were highlighted.