

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3597  
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2012  
CLASSIFICATION OF BAMBOO  
Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to classify Bamboo as 'grass' to make it as a non-timber forest produce in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the extent to which it would be beneficial to tribals/forest dwellers in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (c) There is no proposal to declare or classify bamboo as a grass since taxonomically, bamboo belongs to grass family. It has a woody stem unlike other grasses and grows up to a height of 20 to 40 ft. Bamboo being perennial grass has been traditionally known as "poor man's timber", and is used as a timber substitute widely in the country especially in rural areas. Bamboo has been defined as minor forest produce under the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 which will benefit tribals and other forest dwellers in whose favour the forest rights are settled under the Act.