

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2145
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2015
DEGRADATION OF SOIL/ LAND
Mishra Shri Daddan

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

- (a) whether the obstruction of water flow of hilly streams is damaging fertile soil and forests due to stay on auction of stones and gravel at Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary located on Indo-Nepal Border since the enforcement of Forest Sanctuary, 1994;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether thousands of farmers and poor labourers of more than 50 villages in Srawasti are affected due to monsoon flood and thousands of acre of cultivable land is being ruined; and
- (d) if so, the remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (d) Protection of wildlife and management of Sanctuaries is a responsibility of the concerned State government. Under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, removal of forest produce, including stones and gravel from a Sanctuary and diversion, stoppage or enhancing the flow of water into or outside a Sanctuary can be permitted by the State Government in consultation with the State Board for Wildlife and only in the case when such removal of forest produce or stoppage or enhancing the flow of water is necessary for improvement and better management of wildlife therein. The forest produce so removed may be used for meeting the bona fide needs of the people living in and around the Sanctuary only and no commercial use of such forest produce is allowed.