

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1944
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2014
REDD CONSERVATION PROGRAMME
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a recent study has established that Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)+ conservation programme has led to false assumptions of habitat importance and that REDD+ and other carbon-centric conservation programmes have driven some species towards extinction;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the measures taken/being taken to assess such programmes and evolve benchmarks acceptable at the international level?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, the study titled `The dangers of carbon-centric conservation for biodiversity: a case study in the Andes` by Alvaro Duque, Kenneth J. Feeley, Edersson Cabrera, Ricardo Callejas and Alvaro Idarraga published in Tropical Conservation Science Vol.7 (2):178-191, in June 2014 has indicated such a projection.
- (b) In this particular study, specific to the Andean highlands, the authors have used data from the northern Andes, and showed that carbon-focused conservation strategies may potentially lead to increased risks of species extinctions if there is displacement (i.e., "leakage") of land-use changes from forests. Over Indian region, large scale displacement (i.e., "leakage") of land-use changes from forests is not happening and REDD+ has not been formally launched in India. Therefore, applicability of these findings to Indian conditions is a remote possibility.
- (c) Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), strong biodiversity safeguards are agreed for REDD plus decisions. In the Conference of Parties (COP) held in Warsaw during December, 2013, the communication system of these safeguards to UNFCCC have been further strengthened and it was decided that Parties should provide a summary of information on how all of the safeguards will be addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the REDD+ activities.