

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:140

ANSWERED ON:16.07.2014

SOCIO ECONOMIC SURVEY OF FOREST DWELLERS

Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao; Satav Shri Rajeev Shankarrao

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted or proposes to conduct a fresh socio-economic survey of forest dwellers and those who live in fringe villages within the limit of 3 KM from the forests;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the aims and objectives therefor;
- (c) the quantum of funds allocated for this purpose;
- (d) the agencies identified/selected for the purpose; and
- (e) the time frame for commencement and completion of the survey? MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

Answer

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 140 due for answer on 16.07.2014 asked by Shri Dhananjay Mahadik and Shri Satav Rajeev regarding Socio-Economic Survey of Forest Dwellers.

(a) to (e) The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has not conducted socio- economic survey of forest dwellers and those who live in fringe villages within the limit of 3 KM from the forests.

The country's forests are specifically important to a large number of people living in and around forest areas for their livelihoods and sustenance, as forests provide valuable goods such as food, fuelwood, fodder, fibres and traditional medicines, etc., apart from maintaining ecological services which are vital for our survival. Therefore, forests are to be managed sustainably for welfare of local people. There is lack of data on socio- economic condition of the local people making it difficult to estimate realistic demands on forests and contribution of forests to the well being of local people.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has recently released National Working Plan Code-2014, which provides for collection and assessment of socio-economic status of the people living in forest fringe villages by the State Forest Departments as a part of working plan preparation exercise for management of a particular forest area.