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Title: Need to check deforestation between Kashipur and Ramnagar in Aampokhra Tarai, Uttaranchal.

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA' (NAINITAL): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards approximately 200 acres of natural forests lying on National Highway No. 121 at 14th K.M. stone between Kashipur and Ramnagar in Aampokhra Tarai West Region of Uttaranchal. The State Forest Department has cut down all the trees in this forest area perhaps under the pretext of treating these areas as degraded to grow herbal and medicinal plantation. Sir, it is indisputable that forests are integral and indispensable part of human life. Every Government endeavours to promote the forest wealth in order to preserve ecology and for sustainable development. In the circumstances, I would request the Government to take immediate steps to ensure that forests are not cut down by Forest Departments of any State in the guise of degraded forests. The feasibility of growing local trees to preserve the natural forest should also be explored in the said 200 acres of forest. Such an approach would not only avoid the destruction of natural habitat of hundreds of varieties of birds and animals but would also obviate the hindrance to the Tiger beats. In any eventuality, the decision to cut down trees should precede consultations with Project Tiger and other wild life experts and also the Forest Development Corporation. [\[a40\]](#)