

Tribals Residing in Protected Forests

6978. SHRI K. B. K. DEB BURMAN:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend the Indian Forest Act, 1980, for providing permanent settlement of tribals residing in the protected forests and reserved forest areas;

(b) if so, the details and background of the proposed amendments; and

(c) when the proposed amending legislation is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c). There is no Act as Indian Forest Act, 1980. In 1980, Forest (Conservation) Act was enacted with a view to conserve forests. It was amended in 1988 to make it more comprehensive. There is no proposal under consideration to amend it further. However, a proposal to amend the Indian Forest Act, 1927, is under the consideration of the Government.

Seminar on Forest Resources

6979. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Seminar on 'Economics of Sustainable use of Forest Resources' was held by the Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi in early April this year;

(b) if so, the crux of the some of the critical and complex issues concerning forests dealt with at this Seminar;

(c) whether forests have suffered policy neglect throughout the period of planned development in the country; and

(d) the percentage of the 7th Plan Outlay spent on forests annually and that proposed for the 8th Plan.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Seminar considered the issues on afforestation, sustainable yield and economics of forest produce.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The total outlay on forestry sector for the first Six Five Year Plan was Rs. 1175.71 crores which was less than 1% of the total outlay. The allocation during the Seventh Five Year Plan for Forestry Sector was Rs. 1859.10 crores which is 1.03% of the total Plan outlay. The yearwise expenditure on forests is given below:

Year	Expenditure		Total
	Centre	States	
1985 - 86	47.39	241.12	288.51
1986 - 87	64.38	276.61	340.99
1987 - 88	72.92	320.05	392.97
1988 - 89	87.54	376.11 (anticipated)	463.65

Year	Expenditure		Total
	Centre	States	
1989 - 90	98.06	428.90	526.96
	(anticipated)	(outlay)	
	370.29	1642.79	2013.08

The 8th Plan Proposals have not yet been finalised.

Global Ecological Conference, USA

6980. SHRISANATKUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India participated in the global ecological conference in Washington (USA) held earlier during this month;

(b) if so, the details of what transpired at this Conference and the contribution of India to the formulation of an action plan covering issues relating to global ecological change; and

(c) the action plan, if any, drawn up by Government of India for implementation of research Programme on global warming in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Conference dealt with global change and the studies needed to identify the causes and impacts and response strategies for global change. India has put forward its point of view and offered its cooperation to the best of its ability. However no plan of action has been discussed at this meeting.

(c) As above. However, an Expert Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has already

been formed in the Ministry of Environment and Forests for coordinating the research programmes in various research institutions and universities on global change and sea level rise.

Black Buck

6981. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any estimate on the number of black bucks living in Orissa and elsewhere in the country;

(b) if so, the approximate number of black bucks, statewise;

(c) whether a large number of black bucks seen in Bagada areas of Ganjam district in Orissa, need immediate protection; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b). The estimated population of black buck in states, including Orissa, is given in the statement below.

(c) and (d). There are about 1000 black buck in Baguda, in Ganjam district, Orissa. Steps taken by State Government of Orissa to protect this black buck population, include:-

(i) Declaration of the area as 'closed to hunting under Section 37 of