

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:315

ANSWERED ON:05.09.2007

ROLE OF LOCAL PEOPLE IN CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Singh Shri Rakesh

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy to decide the role of local people in order to check the exploitation of natural resources in the reserved forest areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (b) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 315 due for reply on 5.9.2007 regarding role of local people in conservation of natural resources.

(a) to (b) No specific policy relating to the role of local people in checking the exploitation of natural resources in the reserved forests has been formulated. However, in accordance with the provisions of National Forest Policy, 1988, the Government of India had issued guidelines on 1st June, 1990 for involving village communities in the regeneration and protection of degraded forest lands under Joint Forest Management (JFM) strategy. After a review of the JFM programme, Central Government issued guidelines on 21st February 2000 & 24th December 2002 to further strengthen the JFM programme in country. The JFM strategy has been adopted by all the 28 States and 2 Union Territories. As per the information furnished by the State Forest Departments there are more than one lakh village level Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) managing approximately 22 million hectare of forest area. Among their other activities JFMCs also help in checking unsustainable harvest of forest produce from forest areas including reserved forests.