

an>

Title: Need to undertake de-weeding of forest area under MNREGS in Chamarajanagar Parliamentary Constituency of Karnataka.

SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJANAGAR): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government towards the fact that in my Constituency, forest area covered 1450 Sq. Kms. in Mysore District covering H.D. Kote & Nanjangud Forest area and 2791 Sq. Kms. in Chamarajanagar District covering BRT Tiger Project, Bandipur Tiger Project, Cauvery Wild Life Division and Malai Mahadeshwara Wild Life Division.

The Officers of Forest Department in my Constituency are seeking permission to allow labourers under MGNREG Scheme to weed out lantana camara from the forests as about 60% of forests are encroached by weeds resulting in multiple issues, including the shortage of water and lack of fodder for herbivorous animals inside the forest.

De-weeding under MGNREGS definitely benefits forests as fodder base will increase and straying of animals into neighbouring farms will come down. Further, taking up de-weeding under MGNREGS will not only generate employment for tribal workers but also improve water table in forests. I hereby urge the Union Government to accord permission to remove lantana in the Forests of my Constituency under MGNREGS to avoid shortage of water and fodder for herbivorous animals inside the forest and to generate employment for Tribal workers.

