

**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