

9. The National Forest Policy 1988 calls for optimization of grazing areas through increased investment, silvicultural research and development of the area, and exhorts that the requirements of the community which cannot be met by the rights and concessions so determined, should be met by development of social forestry outside the reserved forests. What action has the State Government taken in this regard ?

*Silviculture division and social forestry cell of the Department of Environment and Forests are working towards achieving these objectives in the forest policy also. There have been special schemes on cane and bamboo plantation, enrichment plantation in all the territorial divisions of this department.*

10. The National Forest Policy also asked for regulation of grazing in forest areas with the involvement of the community. Please state what measures the State Government have taken in this regard.

*Cattle are not owned by tribals. The settlers maintain the cattle. The approximate population of cattle is 188310 as per the 1997 census. Grazing in forest area in A&N Islands which have tropical ever green and moist deciduous forest is not desirable, as these forests do not have grasses. The young and natural regeneration of forestry species most of which are browsable will be adversely affected by grazing cattle. No regulation is found necessary for this purpose.*

11. Generally the experience has been that reservation proceedings have been started and completed by the Forest Department in respect of lands occupied by the tribal families. Notwithstanding publicity given as per the prescribed procedures, the tribal families do not come to know of the reservation proceedings till the stage when they are asked to vacate the land. This has happened in many areas of the country e.g. Chandepur area of Maharashtra. Please mention in your state in how many instances has this happened? What total area has been involved and how many tribal families have been displaced? What action has the State Government taken for (a) relief and rehabilitation of such families and (b) prevention of recurrence of such episodes?

*In A & N Islands all the tribes are of primitive nature except Nicobaris. They do not have the modern way of communication. The forest area which were declared Reserved Forests in 1936 under Indian Forest Act were also declared tribal reserves as per the provisions of A&N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal tribes) Regulations 1957. Hence, such cases of displacement of tribals have never occurred in the A&N Islands.*

12. The Government of India had asked for regularization of pre-1980 encroachments on forest land. Please inform the action taken by the State Government in the matter. Also indicate the State Govt's views on regularization of encroachment.

*A total of 1367 encroachers were identified as pre-1978 encroachers who were entitled to get land @ 1 ha. per family. To implement the decision*