

## SUBJECT: - REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORTS

Starred LAQ No. 011A tabled by Shri. Aleixo Sequeira, Shri. Vijai Sardesai, MLA to be answered on 20-07-2022.

	Question	Answer
	Will the Minister for Forest be pleased to state:	By Shri. Vishwajit Rane, Hon. Minister for Forests
(a)	the number of Committees and details of the Committees formed to identify Private Forests in Goa and the criteria to identify Private Forests;	Sir, the Criteria adopted by the State Government for identifying the Private Forests is as follows: i) 75% of the tree Composition of such lands should be of Forestry Species ii) The area should be contiguous to the Government Forest Lands If in isolation, the minimum area identified should be 5 hectares. iii) Canopy density should not be less than 0.4.  Six Committees have been formed by the Government from time to time to identify Private Forests in Goa. They are 1. S.M. Sawant Committee 2. H.Y. Karapurkar Committee 3. K.G. Sharma Committee 4. P.V. Sawant Committee 5. North Goa Forest Division Committee (V.T. Thomas Committee) 6. South Goa Forest Division Committee (F.X. Araujo Committee)  Three Committees have been formed by the Government from time to time to review the Private Forests in Goa. They are  1. Review Committee chaired by Dy. Conservator of Forests (Working Plan) (Sharma Committee) 2. Review Committee chaired by Joint Secretary (Revenue) (D'Souza Committee) 3. Review Committee chaired by Conservator of Forests (Conservation)/Chief Conservator of Forests.  The notification of all the above
(b)	the details of number of Committee's formed to review the work of Private Forest with the notification of Government and directions issued to Committees vide notifications;	

		mentioned nine Committees have been enclosed as <b>Annexure-I</b> .
(C)	whether the Government has accepted the reports of the review committee, if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor;	<p>The report of the review Committee headed by Dy. Conservator of Forests (Working Plan) (Sharma Committee) was not accepted by the Government on following grounds.</p> <p>(a) Fixation of a 5% sampling intensity for field verification was not sufficient.</p> <p>(b) No Public Consultation was carried out.</p> <p>I. The Government constituted another committee under Joint secretary (Revenue) to review the report on Private Forests submitted by the Review Committee headed by Dy. Conservator of Forests (Working Plan). The committee submitted its report to the Government on 13/03/2020.</p> <p>Both the reports were placed before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) in O.A No.479/2018. However, Hon'ble NGT accepted the report of Dy. Conservator of Forests (Working Plan)/Sharma Committee and rejected the report of Joint Secretary (Revenue) vide order dated 18/08/2020 in (O.A.479/2018 O.A. No. 18/ 2013 (THC) (WZ)).</p> <p>The present Review Committee chaired by Chief Conservator of Forest, to review the survey numbers provisionally identified by Thomas &amp; Araujo Committees has finalized 5 Interim reports, which has been approved by the Government and filed before the Hon'ble NGT. All the reports have been uploaded on the departmental website in compliance to the Hon'ble NGT's order dated 07/01/2021 in E.A. No. 26/2020 in O. A. No 478/2018.</p>

(d)	whether the Committees have carried out the review work as per the notification, if so, details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;	<p>I. Report of the Review Committee headed by Deputy Conservator of Forests (Working Plan) was accepted by Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 18/08/2020 in (O.A.479/2018 O.A. No. 18/2013 (THC) (WZ)). Copy of the report is enclosed at <b>Annexure II.</b></p> <p>II. The Report of the Review Committee headed by the Joint secretary (Revenue) was accepted by the Government. However, Hon'ble NGT has not accepted the report submitted by this review committee. Copy of the report is enclosed at</p> <p>III. <b>Annexure III.</b></p> <p>The present Review Committee headed by Chief Conservator of Forests to review the survey numbers provisionally identified by Thomas and Araujo Committees has finalized 5 Interim reports, which has been approved by the Government and filed before the Hon'ble NGT. All the reports have been uploaded on the departmental website in compliance to Hon'ble NGT's order dated 07/01/2021 in E.A. No. 26/2020 in O. A. No 478/2018.</p>
(e)	whether ground verification has been carried out by sub-committee in all survey numbers mentioned in the reports uploaded by present review committee on the website, if so, details thereof, if not, the reason for not doing the same; and	<p>As per the approved methodology, following works are being carried out by the review committee</p> <p>(i) Digitized the survey numbers referred by Thomas and Araujo Committee using DSLR/TCP record. Survey numbers already reviewed (Sawant and Karapurkar committee) were excluded.</p> <p>(ii) Superimposed the digitized maps of Private Forest areas on the 2014-15 Forest cover map prepared by FSI showing the patches of 0.4 canopy and 5 Ha area &amp; less than 5 Ha area (adjoining Govt Forest) to analyse the area and canopy criteria of Private Forest .</p> <p>(iii) Accordingly, KML files</p>

		<p>along with GPS locations of Survey numbers/patches fulfilling area and canopy criteria were sent to sub-committees for enumeration through physical verification.</p> <p>(iv) Thus the reports have included survey numbers for which ground verification was not required as per approved methodology (not fulfilling area and canopy criteria) as well as after ground verification for the survey numbers fulfilling area and canopy criteria.</p>
(f)	the strategy followed by the committee in sample plot enumeration and what basis it's done with details thereof?	<p>Considering the huge area involved, ground verification is carried out by Stratified Random Sampling method with 5% sampling intensity. Sample plot of 20 x 50 mts dimension is fixed at a given GPS location (Random) in the plot area and its number will be proportionate to the total area of the plot/survey numbers involved. Same sample design was used by the review committee headed by DCF (Working Plan), report of which has been accepted by Hon'ble NGT in O.A. No 479/2018.</p> <p>However, after hearing the objectors whose area is qualifying, if the objector insists, 100% enumeration is being carried out.</p>