

Structure

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9.1 INTRODUCTION

‘Forest’ in a narrow sense means trees on land which are not for agricultural use. But in the broadest sense, it refers to biodiversity—an interrelationship between forests, humans and other species. Forest is instrumental in securing sustainable development. Since industrialization, deforestation is on the rise and ecological imbalance trends are globally evident. Certainly, deforestation can be termed as one of the leading factors for climate change. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the State of World Forest Report 2020 mentioned that only 30.8 per cent of the global land area is covered by forest. Of the total 30.8 per cent, more than half of the forest is found only in five countries viz., the Russian Federation, Brazil, Canada, the United States of America and China. The report further states that in the last three decades i.e., from 1990 to 2020 forests have decreased from 32.5 per cent to 30.8 per cent and the major contributor to the decline is agricultural expansion. This decline is explicit in the African and South American continents. However, from 2010 to 2020 a net gain in the forest was observed in Asia. The report demands concerted efforts from the global community. As a result, the United Nations declared 2021-2030 as the decade of Ecosystem Restoration to reverse the forest loss and its biodiversity. Also, the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) strives to increase forest cover and enhance biodiversity. These strategies are extended to the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement adopted under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Forest Instrument (UNFI)". UNSPF has identified Six Global Forest Goals. The Global Forest Goal 5 necessitates enhancement of Forest laws and governance which includes

strengthening of “sub-national forest authorities”. Law and its application through authorities are viewed as one of the key elements in reversing forest degradation.

India, the second most populous country in the world, stands tenth in forest cover globally. It has around 24 per cent of the total geographical area under the forest cover however it is still short of the committed figure of 33 per cent. The role of law, policy and enforcement agencies is crucial in achieving global forest standards, the same has been reiterated by the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2030 (UNSPF). In India, policy and regulations on Forest Conservation date back to 1865. Colonial lawmakers passed the first law in 1865 and subsequently amended it until 1927. In independent India, Constitution offered protection to the forest and the first National Policy was introduced in 1952. In this unit, we will discuss the nature of policies and regulations on forest conservation.

9.2 OBJECTIVES

After studying this unit, you should be able to:

- discuss the aim, objectives and rationale behind the introduction of forest policies in India;
- discuss the features of the National Forest Policy, 1952;
- discuss the features of the National Forest Policy, 1988;
- discuss the features of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980; and
- discuss the features of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

9.3 THE NATIONAL FOREST POLICY, 1952

The Constitution of India entrusted significant value to the protection and preservation of the forests. An explicit provision in this regard exists in Part IV – Directive Principles of State Policy of the Constitution. Article 48A was inserted by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976. Article 48A reads as follows: “48A. Protection and improvement of environment and safeguarding of forests and wildlife. —The State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country”. The Directive Principles of State Policy are not enforceable, but certainly, it creates a moral obligation on the State to consider the principles in future as they are fundamental to the governance of the State. If not law, at least the government is morally bound to frame some policy. Another constitutional reference to the forest can be traced to Schedule VII of the Constitution. List III – Concurrent List contains Entry 17A – ‘Forest’, inserted by the Forty Second Constitution Amendment 1976. Before 1976 it was on the State List. Article 246 contains three lists viz., Union, State and Concurrent. Under the Concurrent list, both the Union legislature and State legislature could make laws on the conservation of ‘forest’. The Constitution

also casts a duty on every citizen of India to protect and improve forests. Article 51-A (g) states that every citizen should "protect and improve the natural environment, including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures".

Since 1950, the government introduced policies to regulate forests which were later replaced by laws. In recent times, the Parliament passed the 'Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006' also known Forest Rights Act. Independent India formulated its first forest policy in 1952. But any examination of the existing laws on forests requires a study of the colonial past. In colonial India, the British introduced the Forest Act of 1865 as the first legislation to consolidate and legitimize the authority over forests as it remained administratively unorganised leading to overlapping decision makings. The 1865 Act was successively replaced by the Forest Act 1878, Act XII of 1891, Act V of 1901, and Act XV of 1911. The 1865 Act empowered the local government—to declare any forest as 'government forest' without affecting the interest of the local people, to prepare rules relating to the governance and preservation of the forest and pronounce punishments for any infringement of the rules. Soon after its enforcement, the administrators who were in charge of the implementation of the Act identified its shortcoming of the Act as firstly, it generated enormous conflict between the revenue department and forest department. Forest officers accused revenue officers of vested interests in giving leverages to the people which adversely impacted the conservation of the forest. Secondly, the Act dealt only with the government forest and excluded the private forest thus completely undermining the purpose of the law. Thirdly, the controls over the forest by the local government were seen as adverse to the customary rights of the people. Lastly, many administrators were perplexed due to the complexities in the approach of the State in governing the forest. Many administrators believed that the State should exercise complete control over the forest and others opposed it. The dissenters demanded respect for the customary rights of the communities. All these shortcomings were discussed and debated in the First and Second General Conferences in 1874 and 1875 at Allahabad and Shimla respectively. After the 1875 Conference, the 1865 Act was replaced by the Forest Act 1878.

The Forest Act of 1878 had the following salient features: Firstly, it empowered the government to declare any forest as a 'reserved' State Forest. It classified forests into "reserved state forests", "protected forests" and "village forests". Secondly, it identified offences such as theft of forest produce, and prevention of harm to the forest through fire among others. Forest officers were given police powers. Thirdly, the Act had special provisions on the "village forests". Under this category, the government offered protection to the village forests against any trespass or loss as it was used by the village communities and private persons. Fourthly, the rights of the users in the forests were subjected to certain limitations. One of the

limitations stated that the user cannot have the proprietary right over the land or property. It only extended to the temporary use of the forest. Soon after its implementation, dissenting views emerged against the Act. One of the prominent issues was the identification of limitations on the proprietorship of the forest and forest products. Other issues included untrained officials and financial constraints, overlapping of powers among the authorities, and tensions between the governance and social practices due to persistent supervision by the forest authorities. Tribal people were dependent on the forest products for their livelihood and the use of forest products required permission from the forest officials which appeared extremely cumbersome and time-consuming. Also, many free grazing lands were included in the reserved forest category which created discontentment among the locals as restrictions were imposed on them. Meanwhile, the last colonial law on the forest was passed in the year 1927. The Indian Forest Act of 1927 enhanced the governmental control on the forest including private forests, strict regulations were laid down on the rights of the people on forest and its produce and consolidated the practices of the forest officials to maintain steady growth in the forest revenues and elaborated the offences and punishments relating to the forest. Overall, the ecological regulations during colonial times were contested between the state's absolute authority vis-à-vis the rights of the people or community. Colonial forest laws were primarily framed with the intent to safeguard colonial fiscal interests in particular to secure timber. Irrespective of the above colonial ecological laws on the forest, the colonial lawmakers also declared the Imperial Forest Policy in 1894 which remained valid until 1947. The aim and objectives of the forest policy were—to promote the welfare of the country and serve the needs of the people; preserve forests to maintain climatic conditions. But the objectives were subjected to local interests such as fulfilling the agricultural needs and imperial interests. After 1894, the only second policy on the forest was framed in 1952 in post-colonial India.

The National Forest Policy 1952 was formulated to serve national needs. Overall, it identified six paramount needs of the nations such as 1) Efficient use of forest leading to high forest yield with least deterioration; 2) Enhance soil fertility in the river basins; 3) Plantation of trees for the general wellbeing of the people; 4) Increase food production by promoting progressive use of grazing, firewood and manure; 5) Use of timber and forest produce for defence, communications and industrial purposes; 6) To gain maximum revenue in consonance with the fulfilment of the above needs.

It classified forests on a functional basis but the classification was not mutually exclusive. However, the underlining philosophy was national wellbeing. Forests were classified as—1. “Protection forest” to serve climatic and physical needs; 2. “National Forest” for defence, communications, industry and general purposes of public importance; 3. ‘Village forests” to generate firewood, timber, grazing and forest product to serve local and agricultural requirements; 4. “Tree lands” fell outside the scope of forest

administration nevertheless they could significantly contribute to the improvement of the physical conditions of the country. National importance could limit the rights of the residents of the neighbouring areas on the forest and its produce and the claim of agriculture on the forest land. Though the policy entrusted ownership rights to the individuals over the private forest, it could also be limited in the national interest if it affected—the general welfare, physical, climatic and economic conditions. One-third of the total land is aimed to be maintained under forest cover. As per the policy, the States should undertake afforestation.

Forest grazing was highly contested during colonial rule. National Policy of 1952 explicitly favoured regulation of grazing on the following principles: Firstly, prohibition of grazing in the newly or young plantations and also be minimal in the protected forest. Secondly, imposition of reasonable fees on grazing to secure quality in grazing and cattle breeding as the policy framers believed that “free and indiscriminate forest grazing is, therefore, a serious disservice to cattle breeding.” Thirdly, restrict continuous grazing and introduce rational grazing compatible with the scientific forestry with the participation of the villagers. As a result, the sheep and goats were restricted from forest grazing. As an alternative measure, the policy mentioned that a special reserve is created with strict rotational control.

The policy also proposed to restrict shifting cultivation which was prominent among the aborigines. Shifting cultivation was viewed as detrimental to forest growth. Such restriction, however, should be persuasive and not coercion. As a part of effective forest management and to secure sustained yield through forest legislation, the policy proposed forest education and training to the forest official. The whole object of the policy was to develop a common outlook, forest research and forest budget.

Forest Policy of 1952 was primarily driven by a narrow agenda of national interest. It imbibed inherent contradictions which were explicitly present during the colonial rule. Tribal rights needed more rational consideration as observed by the Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission constituted in 1960 under the Chairmanship of U N Dhebar.

9.4 THE NATIONAL FOREST POLICY, 1988

The Forest policy of 1952 did not withstand the sufferings of the tribal population and forest deforestation. According to one study (Joshi 1983), there was a decline in the geographical area under the forest from 24 per cent in 1961 to 22 per cent by the end of the 1970s. Also, out of the total area sanctioned for regeneration i.e., 292,648 sq. km only 13,648 sq km were regenerated. This impending situation was well expressed in the National Forest Policy of 1988. The policy stated that, “However, over the years, forests in the country have suffered serious depletion. This is attributable to relentless pressures arising from the ever-increasing demand for fuel-wood, fodder and timber; inadequacy of protection measures; diversion of forest

lands to non-forest uses without ensuring compensatory afforestation and essential environmental safeguards; and the tendency to look upon forests as revenue earning resource. With the need to review the situation and evolve, for the future, a new strategy of forest conservation has become imperative. Conservation includes preservation, maintenance, sustainable utilisation, restoration, and enhancement of the natural environment. It has thus become necessary to review and revise the National Forest Policy.”

To address the perplexing situation, the government introduced the National Forest Policy in 1988. The policy primarily had the following objectives viz.,

- To undertake environmental stability or ecological balance to overcome the depletion of forests.
- To conserve natural forests, and genetic resources and maintain biological diversity.
- To control soil erosion in the catchment areas of rivers, lakes and reservoirs which are prone to floods and droughts.
- To control the spread of dunes in Rajasthan and other coastal tracts.
- To increase forest cover by undertaking extensive afforestation and social forestry.
- To provide fodder, small timber, and firewood to the rural population and tribals.
- To enhance forest productivity in the national interests.
- To promote efficient use of forest produce.
- To generate awareness among all sections of society on forest conservation.

The 1988 policy adopted the following strategies to secure the above objectives.

- A. To secure a balanced ecosystem, the policy planned to bring two third of the mountain and hilly region under the forest cover; and one-third area under other regions.
- B. To undertake time-bound and need-based afforestation in the denuded and wastelands, the policy planned afforestation along the railway lines, roads, and rivers among others. Develop green belts in the urban and industrial areas. At the village level, encourage village communities to participate in the afforestation and modify land laws to support tree farming.
- C. On the management of the forests, the central government’s approval was mandatory. Restrictions will be imposed on the schemes and projects that interfered with ecologically sensitive areas. Scientific and technical methods will be adopted to enhance the forest cover.

- D. Rights and concession in the forest meant for bonafide use such as grazing, and firewood among others. Tribals and neighbouring communities were the bearers of the right. But such use should support the development of the forest. This policy mentioned that the rights of the tribals on forests should be safeguarded by the respective governments. Most of the communities majorly rely on the forest for firewood, the policy proposed to substitute it with alternative long-term solutions. For instance, fuel-efficient chulhas, biogas or solar energy.
- E. For the first time, the policy addressed the diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. The government was obliged to treat the forest as a national asset and any diversion needed intense scrutiny from specified agencies about its social and environmental outcomes. Also, the miners were bound to repair and regenerate the lost forest. Government should not allow any private and public mining without an approved mine management plan.
- F. Tribal's role in the protection of forests seemed very crucial. It followed a reciprocal approach. On one hand, it recognized the customary rights of the tribals and on the other hand, they were engaged in safeguarding the forest. The policy acknowledges the degradation of forests by the contractors, hence to overcome this, the policy suggested the establishment of tribal cooperatives, labour cooperatives, government cooperatives etc. Also, for the advancement of tribals and the economy, it proposed the introduction of an integrated development programme. This included the regeneration of minor forests, development of forest villages and alternate energy sources.
- G. Alternative agricultural practices should be identified to restrict the shifting cultivation which was prominent among the tribals. This practice led to the degradation of the environment and land use.
- H. The policy also reflected on three major issues related to forest conservation viz., encroachments, fires and grazing. Grazing was addressed in the 1952 policy. Encroachments should be strictly dealt with as per the law. No regularization should be permitted. Forest fires were seen on the rise and they combated the natural regeneration of the forest. The policy suggested the adoption of improved and modern forest management practices to avert it. Uncontrolled grazing has seen another major menace against forest regeneration. Hence, to overcome it, the policy suggested measures such as community participation, levy of grazing fees, and the development of grazing fields.
- I. Forest-based industries will be permitted only if there is adequate raw material. They have to develop raw materials by employing the locals.
- J. Formal education and training to the farmers on the optimum use of their land and water seemed crucial and a part of the forest extension programme.

- K. Promotion of scientific forestry research to identify new priorities for the improvement of wastelands and regeneration of denuded forests. It also included the introduction of new measures to enhance the competency of forest professionals and scientists. The governmental agencies should generate periodic scientific data to improve forest management.
- L. Financial and Legal assistance should be provided at the Centre and the State levels to support the effective implementation of the policy and secure ecological balance.

9.5 THE FOREST CONSERVATION ACT, 1980

Besides the two national policies of 1952 and 1988, the Parliament also passed the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. Initially, the 1980 Act was an ordinance issued by the Central Government in October 1980 and subsequently, it was converted into a law. 'Forest' was a State subject under the Seventh Schedule but in 1976 it was inserted into the Concurrent list and immediately thereafter the Government of India issued the Ordinance. The 1980 Act came into force on December 27, 1980, and it contained five sections. The Act included three salient features:

Firstly, the State Government cannot cease the 'reserved' forest or any portion from thereof. Additionally, the State Government cannot use any forest land for non-forest purposes. In both cases the prior approval of the Central Government was mandatory. Non-forest use however was exempted if it involved reforestation. The major reason for this exemption was the denudation of forest cover in India.

Secondly, the Act established an Advisory Committee to advise the Central Government relating to the grant of approval for the cessation of reserved forest and conversion of any forest to a non-forest use. Later in 1988, two more provisions were added to this list which needed approval from the central government. They were—assignment of the forest by lease either to the private person or any other authority and for clearing of any forest land for reforestation. The committee also advised the government on the other matters of afforestation. The powers and composition of the committee were determined by the Central Government.

In 1988, Parliament added Sections 3A and 3B to the Act. Section 3A laid down penalties for the contravention of Section 2 i.e., failure to seek approval from the central government while converting forest land to a non-forest use. The punishment included simple imprisonment which may extend to fifteen days. Section 3B included offences by the authorities and government departments violating section 2. The Department of the Government, the head of the department and all persons who were responsible for the conduct of the business under the Act shall be liable for the punishment except if it is committed without the knowledge of that person or the person has taken all due diligence to prevent the commission of a such offence.

Thirdly, the Central Government could make rules under this Act with the approval of the Parliament. The government passed rules in 2003 and amended them in 2004, 2014 and 2017.

9.6 THE SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OTHER TRADITIONAL FOREST DWELLERS (RECOGNITION OF FOREST RIGHTS) ACT, 2006

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 also referred to as Forest Rights Act (hereinafter will be referred to as 'FRA') recognized the symbiotic relationship between the tribals and the forests. It is well evident from the fact that tribals share proximity with the forests as they not only draw their livelihood from it but they also possess traditional wisdom to conserve it. The policy of 1988 had already recognized the symbiotic relationship and it was statutorily recognized by the FRA in 2006. The Act received the President's assent on December 29, 2006, and it was published in the official gazette on January 2, 2007. The Act contains fourteen sections divided into six chapters. At the outset, the Act outlined the objectives as:

“An Act to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded; to provide for a framework for recording the forest rights so vested and the nature of evidence required for such recognition and vesting in respect of forest land. Whereas the recognised rights of the forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers include the responsibilities and authority for sustainable use, conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecological balance and thereby strengthening the conservation regime of the forests while ensuring livelihood and food security of the forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers; And Whereas the forest rights on ancestral lands and their habitat were not adequately recognised in the consolidation of State forests during the colonial period as well as in independent India resulting in historical injustice to the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who are integral to the very survival and sustainability of the forest ecosystem; And Whereas it has become necessary to address the long-standing insecurity of tenurial and access rights of forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers including those who were forced to relocate their dwelling due to State development interventions.”

The above objective can be summarized as:

First, the Act relates to the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers. It recognizes and lays down the procedure for the forest rights which were ignored in the past.

Second, these rights are coupled with responsibilities of sustainable use, conserving biodiversity, maintaining ecological balance and serving food security.

Third, it acknowledges that the previous governmental approach toward tribals and traditional forest dwellers was marred with historical injustice.

The salient features under the Act are as follows:

A. It presents the list of rights the Scheduled Tribes and the other traditional forest dwellers entitled to:

- Every scheduled tribe whether individual or in a group including other traditional forest dwellers was declared of having a right to hold and live in the forest land under the occupation either for habitation or for self-cultivation.
- Possessed community right like *nistar*. Community right further extended to the use and entitlement of fish, other products of water bodies, grazing and access to traditional seasonal resources.
- Entitled to right of ownership of the traditional minor forest produce. Right to ownership included the right to dispose of, collect and use.
- Rights of the primitive tribes and pre-agricultural communities on community tenures of habitat and habitation.
- Right to convert *pattas* or leases or grants on forest land issued by the governmental authorities.
- Right to settlement and conversion of all forest villages into revenue villages.
- Entitled to all other rights which are mentioned or declared in any State legislations or Autonomous Regional Council or Autonomous District Council.
- Right to access intellectual property and traditional knowledge rights in the community related to biodiversity and cultural rights.
- Entitled to rehabilitation and alternative land if they are displaced from their forest lands.

Apart from the above-specified rights, they were also entitled to unspecified rights. The above rights are not exhaustive. However, the Act mentioned that the tribals or other forest dwellers have no right to traditional hunting of any species of wild animal. The Act also enumerated a list of purposes for which the diversion of forests was permitted but such conversion should be less than one hectare and the felling of trees should not exceed seventy-five per hectare, but such conversion should be recommended by the concerned Gram Sabha. The purposes for which the forest could be converted were: (a) schools; (b) dispensary or hospital; (c) Anganwadi; (d) fair price shops; (e)

electric and telecommunication lines; (f) tanks and other minor water bodies; (g) drinking water supply and water pipelines; (h) water or rainwater harvesting structures; (i) minor irrigation canals; (j) non-conventional source of energy; (k) skill up-gradation or vocational training centres; (l) roads; and (m) community centres.

The holders of the above rights also have duties. Section 5 states the duties as:

- A. To protect the biodiversity, forest, wildlife, catchment areas, water sources, and other ecologically sensitive areas.
- B. Object any destructive practices to the habitats and thereby ensure the protection of their natural and cultural heritage.
- C. the decisions of the Gram Sabha should provide access to the forest biodiversity and not be detrimental to wild animals, forest and biodiversity.

In addition to the above duties, Section 4 mentioned that the rights of Scheduled tribes and other forest dwellers in the critical wildlife habitats of National Parks and Sanctuaries can be modified or resettled. But such modifications or settlements need to fulfil certain conditions. These conditions are: firstly, the concerned authorities must have completed the vesting of rights. Secondly, they have concluded that the rights of the Scheduled Tribes and other forest dwellers will cause irreversible damage to the wildlife animals and their habitat. Thirdly, while imposing a limitation on the holder of rights to protect wildlife, the authorities must prepare and communicate the alternative package or resettlement to the Scheduled Tribes and other forest dwellers. Fourthly, the proposed resettlement or package should be consented by Gram Sabha in writing. Fifthly, the relocation is completed only after the land and facilities are provided to the holder of rights. Sixthly, no authority can convert the use of the land occupied under the relocation meant for the conservation of critical wildlife habitats.

The process for the vesting of rights is initiated by Gram Sabha. As a part of the process, the Gram Sabha decides the nature and extent of individual and community rights in the forest. It receives claims, consolidates them and after verification it prepares a map delineating the claimed area. Finally, it passes the resolution relating to the claims and submits the copy of the resolution to the Sub-Divisional Level Committee. Any person who is aggrieved by the decision of the Gram Sabha can file a petition before the Sub-Divisional Level Committee constituted by the State Government within sixty days from the date of the passing of the resolution. A final appeal against the decision of the Sub-Divisional Level Committee can be filed before the District Level Committee constituted by the State Government. The decision of the District Level Committee on the record of forest rights shall be final and binding. In addition to the above authorities, the State government will establish State Level Monitoring Committee to monitor the process of vesting of forest

rights and submit reports to the nodal agency i.e. Central Government Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

The concerned authorities are bound to conduct the business under the act with good faith and due diligence. Any violation of any provision of the Act or the rule, then such officer will be punished with a fine of rupees one thousand. Under this Act, the Central Government has the power to make rules.

Check Your Progress 1

Note: i) Use the space given below for your answers.

ii) Check your answers with those given at the end of the unit.

1. What was the first law passed by the colonial lawmakers on the forest?

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2. Write a short note on the National Forest Policy, 1952.

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3. What are the salient features of the National Forest Policy, 1988?

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4. Write a short note on the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

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5. Explain the features of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional

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9.7 LET US SUM UP

Forest laws in India have an impressive history which spans from colonial times. Colonial lawmakers introduced forest laws to cater for their interests. For instance, the protection of forests gave more primacy to the procurement of timber needed for railway constructions and other purposes, as a result, the community rights on the forest were restricted. In post-colonial India, though the government introduced two policies in 1952 and 1988, it demanded practical inclusivity in the conservation of forests. The central government realized the previous shortcomings in forest conservation and followed a more inclusive path. As a result, in 2006 the Parliament passed FRA to secure the rights of tribals and other forest dwellers.

9.8 KEY WORDS

Article 48A: Protection and improvement of environment and safeguarding of forests and wildlife. —The State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.

Article 51-A (g): Article 51-A (g) states that every citizen should protect and improve the natural environment, including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and have compassion for living creatures.

9.10 SUGGESTED FURTHER READING/REFERENCES

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9.11 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Check Your Progress 1

1. Forest Act of 1865 was the first legislation passed by the Britishers to consolidate and legitimize the authority over forests which previously remained administratively unorganized leading to overlapping decision makings. The 1865 Act empowered the local government—to declare any forest as a 'government forest' without affecting the interest of the local people, prepare rules relating to the governance and preservation of the forest and pronounce punishments for any infringement of the rules.
2. Please refer to section 9.3
3. Please refer to section 9.4
4. Please refer to section 9.5
5. Please refer to section 9.6



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