



RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
RAJYA SABHA

12<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Prakash Ji,

I write to draw your attention to need for Central government to Intervene in improving welfare of our Forest officials - the green warriors who are in frontline of protecting our Forests and Wildlife.

Today forest front line staff and officers implement central acts enacted by parliament such as Wildlife Protection Act 1972, Indian Forest Act 1927, Forest Conservation Act 1980, National Biodiversity Act and all other green acts like EPA, Air Act, Water act etc.

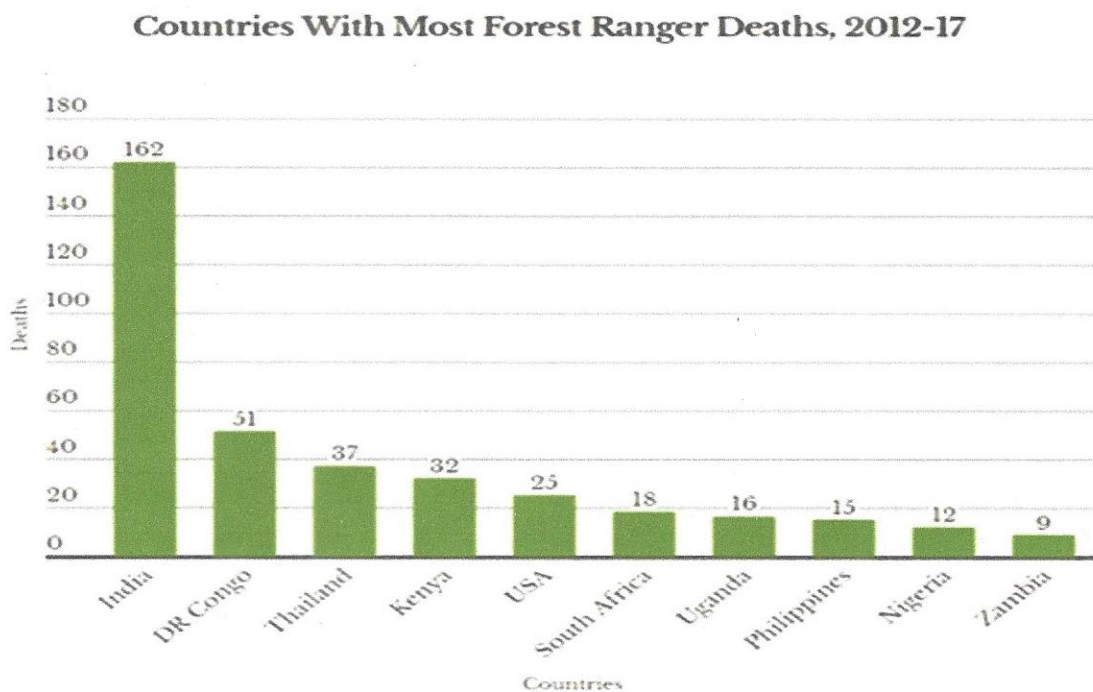
The National Forest Policy is a National policy and it is as a nation that we take credit in all international forums such as UNEP, UNFCCC, IPCC etc for conserving biodiversity, protecting species, enhancing carbon stock etc.

But these are implemented by forest frontline staff and officials on ground. So, it is my request through this letter that central government intervene and improve their welfare also. There have been recent cases of forest officials dying on duty caught in wildfires or due to wild animals - most recently A Forest Guard was trampled to death by an Elephant in Kolar 2nd March and three others died while dodging Thrissur wildfire a week before that. They died out of sight & remote. All while performing their duty.



Recently PM's scholarship scheme has been expanded to include children of police personnel who die on duty. May I request that this be extended to Children of Forest personnel who die on duty too?

India is world's most dangerous place for forest rangers!! The statistics below show that most ranger deaths happened in our country.



Source: International Ranger Federation's Roll of Honour reports for 2016-17, 2015-16, 2014-15, 2014, 2013 and 2012  
Note: Data are as accessed on May 24, 2018 [here](#)

Currently few states have some compensation schemes some don't have a special one. Most states do not have scholarship schemes for children of martyred forest staff. Some states give compensation during staff killed by wild animals as they give to other citizens, without any special support.



Environment and Sustainable developments are goals for our nation. There are issues relating to poaching, manmade forest fires, man-animal conflict, Illegal land encroachment that are growing threats to our Forests and Wildlife. Forest officials around the country are the frontline in this. I request you, to kindly examine the issue of their equipping, training and welfare overall - and in particular the issue related to extending PMs scholarship scheme to children of Forest officials killed on duty

Regards,

**RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR**

**Shri Prakash Javadekar**

Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
Government of India  
New Delhi