

9) Examine pros & cons for Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023.

Recently, Lok Sabha passed Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023 expressing a commitment towards India's goal of achieving net zero by 2075.

It is an amendment to Forest Conservation Bill, 1980 which has highlighted some pros for ones and cons for another.

⇒ Amendments in bill:

1) Bill excludes the need for forest clearance for infrastructure upto 100 km.

pro: Can boost forest eco-tourism, growth in infrastructures - highway, roads, loco-motive.

cons: Forest clearance requires permission of forest guards, collectors which some or otherway protect tribal peoples

Hence, Tribal peoples right to knowledge can be affected.

2) Bill exempts constructions for zoo, safari-park, eco-tourism facilities.

pros: Animals can be more protected & conserved with different breeds.

cons: ↑ Tourism - ↑ road networks - ↑ cables wiring - ↑ population - ↑ threat to animal life.

3) Bill grants unrestricted power to Union government to specify any land for use.

pros: More involvement of central govt - more progress with investment, tech, etc.

cons: can affect federal nature of government state can be restricted with their decisions.

⇒ Amendment with legacy laws are needed but not at the cost of tribal, animals, federal nature.