

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:230
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2000
DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have asked the Andhra Pradesh Government for diversion of 53,404 ha. forest land for excavation of canals in Warangal district;
- (b) if so, whether in pursuant to the suggestions made by his Ministry, the forest area has now been reduced from 53,506 ha. to 39.322 ha. by reducing the bed width of the canal;
- (c) if so, whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested his Ministry to permit 33.22 ha. forest land at the earliest to achieve planned irrigation under the canal in 89,000 acres in the extremist affected backward district of Warangal; and
- (d) if so, the decision taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

- (a) No, Sir. However, a proposal for diversion of 53.406 hectare of forest land for excavation of DBM-48 and its minors was received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh in July, 1999 under Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- (b) After detail examination of the proposal the Central Government conveyed its inability to approve the proposal on 08.10.1999 and informed the State Government that if user agency comes with any alternative (including reduction in canal width) which minimises damage of forest, the proposal will be given due consideration.
- (c)& (d) A modified proposal for diversion of 24.60 hectare (after reducing the canal width) was submitted by the State Government on 24.10.2000. The proposal has been discussed in Forest Advisory Committee meeting on 31.10.2000 and is under consideration for decision.