

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4463
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2003
ECO-TOURISM
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to make changes in Forest Conservation Act by which non-protected areas of forest and wildlife divisions can be developed for eco- tourism;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereto;
- (c) whether the Maharashtra Government has sent any proposal to the Union Government in this regard; and
- (d) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be cleared?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a)&(b): The Union Ministry of Environment & Forests has informed that the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is a regulatory Act and not a prohibitory Act. Non-protected areas of forests and wildlife can be developed for eco-tourism subject to clearances under the Act and other relevant Acts and rules and as such there is no proposal to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(c)&(d): The Union Government has not received any request from the State Government of Maharashtra for amendment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for development of non-protected areas of forests and wildlife for eco-tourism.