

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:217
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2000
PRESERVATION OF FORESTS
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

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

- (a) whether Regional Offices of the Government are hindering industrial development on flimsy grounds;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether fresh guidelines are likely to be issued to the regional offices in this regard; and
- (d) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a)&(b) No Sir. On the contrary, Regional Offices have been working to expedite decision on proposals submitted by the State Governments/Union Territories under section-2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. To enable speedy decision on small development projects involving forest land up to five hectares which do not have large impact on forest and ecology of the area, the Regional Offices have been given full power to decide such cases excluding that of mining and regularisation of encroachments. The Regional Offices have been instructed to ensure final orders in these cases within a period of 4 weeks provided they are complete in all respect. Moreover, Regional Offices have also been given power to process cases involving forest land up to 20 hectares in consultation with State Advisory Group and sent to Ministry for final decision.

(c)&(d) Do not arise.