

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3080
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2002
THICK FORESTS IN TAMIL NADU
K.K. KALIAPPAN

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

- (a) whether the Government are aware that a very large area in Tamil Nadu is surrounded by thick forests;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal for development of these forest areas by providing basic amenities like roads etc.; and
- (d) if so, the details alongwith the proposed allocation of funds for this purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

- (a) Yes, Sir. There are dense forests in Western Ghats and part of Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu.
- (b) According to the 'State of Forest Report 1999' of the Forest survey of India, the forest cover of the state is 17,078 sq.km, out of which dense forest accounts for 8,659 sq.km.
- (c) The roads already exist in the forest area which are maintained and the right of way is admitted. There are no proposals for laying new roads in the thick forest areas.
- (d) Does not arise.