

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:776  
ANSWERED ON:12.07.2004  
LEASE OF ENCROACHED FOREST LAND  
Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

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

- (a) whether a large number of labourers and farmers living in the villages of Eastern Vidharba region of Maharashtra have requested the Union Government for lease of the forest land which they have encroached upon and are living there for the last fifteen to twenty years;
- (b) if so, the reasons for not meeting their demand; and
- (c) the remedial steps to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) According to the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the Rules framed under the Act, Central Government considers only those proposals which are recommended by the State Government following the prescribed procedure. Direct applications from user agencies/others including labourers and farmers are not entertained.

(b) & (c) The encroachments done after 25.10.1980, when the Act came into force, are not eligible for regularisation or lease. Further, the regularisation of even pre 25.10.1980 eligible category of encroachments has also been stayed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its order dated 23.11.2001.