

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5499
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2005
SPECIAL PERMISSION FOR CLEARANCE OF IRRIGATION PROJECTS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether special permission for deforestation has been granted for rehabilitation the Tsunami victims of Andaman and Nicobar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal for grant of such special permission for pending irrigation projects in the districts having more than 33 per cent forest cover; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide order dated 05.01.2005 in WP(C) No. 202 of 1995, as an interim measure, relaxed its earlier order dated 07.05.2002 to a limited extent for rehabilitation of the victims of earthquake and Tsunami waves in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and permitted felling of trees and extraction of timber and non-timber forest produce from the forest area without approved working plan for a period of six months for meeting the immediate requirement for reconstruction/repair of houses, setting up of relief camps, repair of jetties, bridges, public buildings and other related works subject to certain conditions. In compliance of the above order of the Hon'ble Court, only silviculturally available trees have been marked for felling for the purpose.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.