

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:855
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2004
AMENDMENTS TO FOREST CONSERVATION ACT, 1980
Khairi Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to amend the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 with a view to clear hurdles in developmental activities of infrastructural facilities especially in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) No Sir. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is a regulatory Act, not prohibitory. The development oriented infrastructural projects involving non-forest use of the forest land are granted forestry clearance under this Act on merit. This Act does not create any hurdle in the forestry clearance of the eco-friendly developmental projects. Since 1980, 11,282 developmental projects involving 9.81 lakh hectare of forest lands have been approved under this Act.