

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:398

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2010

DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND FOR DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS

Patil Shri A.T. Nana

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

- (a) the details of the forest areas de-reserved for different projects of mining industry, irrigation, etc, State-wise during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether a large amount, on account of compensatory afforestation, is still lying unutilised; and
- (c) if so, whether the Government have reserved that amount for the same purpose or proposes to divert the same for other departmental expenditure?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) So far, about 18,734 ha and 4.216 ha of forest areas have been diverted for different projects pertaining to mining and irrigation respectively during the last three years and current year. The State-wise and year-wise details of last three years and current year are enclosed as Annexure-I and Annexure-II.

(b)&(c) Under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the forest areas are diverted for various non-forest purposes with certain conditions including those of compensatory afforestation (CA), penal compensatory afforestation (Penal CA), Net Present Value (NPV) etc., to mitigate the adverse impact of such diversions. The amounts collected towards the activities are deposited into the Adhoc CAMPA, Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi. Till 31.01.2010, about Rs.11,378 crore have been deposited in the Adhoc CAMPA.

The Central Government with the concurrence of the Supreme Court of India, prepared guidelines for the establishment of State CAMPAs and has released an amount of about Rs.730 crores to 22 States/UTs for undertaking site specific activities such as CA, Penal CA, CAT Plans, etc., and other activities under NPV. The amount towards these site specific activities can not be diverted for any activities other than those required for CA, Penal CA etc.