

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2563
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2009
USE OF FOREST LAND FOR OTHER PURPOSES
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether a large portion of forest land is being used for non-forest purposes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has received usage charges from the parties using forest land for other purposes; and
- (d) if so, the total amount presently lying with the Union Government unutilized collected as a result thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b): So far, the Central Government has approved 18,952 proposals involving 11.82 lakh ha of forest land for different non-forestry purposes such as irrigation, power generation, construction of roads, railway line, transmission lines, drinking water supply projects, mining, village electricity, schools, hospitals etc as per the developmental need of the country. The category wise details are enclosed at annexure.

(c) & (d): The State/UT Governments realize statutory charges towards compensatory afforestation, penal compensatory afforestation, catchment area treatment plan, net present value and protected area management, etc., from different user agencies for use of forest land for non-forestry purposes. As on 30.06.2009, an amount of Rs. 9,932.12 crores, has been remitted by the State/UT Governments to the Ad-hoc body of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) as per the Supreme Court Order dated 05.05.2006.