

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1559  
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009  
PENDING PROJECTS UNDER FOREST CONSERVATION ACT  
Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

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

- (a) whether a number of projects are pending with the Union Government relating to Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat under Forest Conservation Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government for their speedy disposal?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) At present, 26 proposals from Gujarat and 21 proposals from Madhya Pradesh are pending for grant of prior approval for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

The Central Government has taken steps for speedy disposal of proposals by making provisions of general approval for diversion of forest land up to 1 ha for developmental purposes to the State Government. The Central Government has delegated powers to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Incharge of its Regional Offices to decide proposals involving less than 5 ha of forest land except for mining and dereservation. Proposals involving forest land upto 40 ha are processed by the concerned Regional Office through the State Advisory Group. Only proposals involving more than 40 ha are processed in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The mandatory site inspection by officials of the Central Government is for proposals involving more than 100 ha of forest land as against 50 ha in the past. These steps have expedited the decision making process.