

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1588
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009
DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND
Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

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

(a) whether in some of the States including Haryana forest land is being diverted for non-forest use including petrol pumps and shopping malls;and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for diversion of forest land for private commercial use?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act,1980,forest land is diverted for non-forestry purposes, inter-alia, for developmental activities including infrastructure development, irrigation, laying of pipelines/cables/transmission lines etc. So far, out of 1591 approvals, 146 approvals mostly pertaining to approach roads to the petrol pumps and shopping malls have been accorded in the State of Haryana involving 17.375 ha. of forest land.