

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1627  
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009  
RELAXATION IN FOREST CONSERVATION ACT  
Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

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

- (a) whether construction and development work in Tribal and Backward Areas are not being carried out due to Forest Conservation Act,1980;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Governments for giving relaxation under Forest Conservation Act;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has given/proposes to give relaxation under the said Act; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (f) No, Sir. For the Tribal Areas, the Central Government has made provision of general approval under section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act,1980 for underground laying of electricity cables and electric wires to individual households; drinking water supply/water pipelines; telephone lines which involve felling of trees not exceeding 50 number per project (below 60 cm girth class) and are outside National Park or Wildlife Sanctuary and are laid along the roads and within the existing right of way.

Further, infrastructure development projects like power, roads, railways, telephone lines/cables, drinking water facility, school, dispensary etc. designed for tribal areas are given priority under the Forest (Conservation) Act. These are also permitted activities under the Scheduled Tribes & Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.