

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1648
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010
FOREST CLEARANCE TO HILLY STATES
Kashyap Shri Virender;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

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

- (a) whether various projects including construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna of hilly States including Himachal Pradesh under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are pending with the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether clearance is not being given after depositing the fund in compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA); and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for early clearance of these pending projects?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) 41 proposals, as on 30.07.2010, relating to construction of Roads, Hydel projects, Transmission lines, Schools, Mining, etc., involving diversion of forest land in 9 Hilly States including Himachal Pradesh are at different stages of processing in the Government of India. Out of these, only 3 proposals pertain to Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY). Majority of these 41 proposals have been received in the year 2010 and are at different stages of processing. The State-wise details are given in annexure.

(c) & (d) The project proponents, through the respective State/UT Governments, after the receipt of approval from the Central Government for use of forest land for non-forest purposes, are required to comply with certain conditions stipulated to mitigate adverse impact of such diversions of forest land. These stipulations include payment towards Compensatory Afforestation, Net Present Value, Catchment Area Treatment Plan, etc., to the Adhoc-CAMPA. The project proponents are given 5 years to comply with the conditions stipulated in the approval accorded by the Central Government. The Central Government, after the receipt of the compliance report, grants prior approval for transfer of forest land for non-forest purposes.