

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2942  
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010  
CONVERSION OF FOREST VILLAGES  
Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

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

- (a) the number of forest villages in the country including Madhya Pradesh, State-wise;
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government to convert these forest villages into revenue villages including Madhya Pradesh; and
- (c) the time by which these forest villages will be notified as revenue villages?

**Answer**

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

(a) State-wise number of forest villages in the country is annexed.

(b) & (c) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has, so far, received 73 proposal, each for multiple number of villages, from 6 States in the country, including 39 proposal from the Madhya Pradesh, to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for de-reservation of 2,70,965.67 ha. forest land for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages.

The Ministry of Environment & Forests, so far, has accorded in-principal approval of the Central Government for diversion of 40,986.807 ha. forest land, including 30,113.21 ha. forest land in Madhya Pradesh, to convert 511 forest villages, including 315 villages in Madhya Pradesh, into revenue villages.

As the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has restrained the Ministry of Environment & Forests from de-reservation of forest land, the concerned State/UT Governments are required first to approach the Hon'ble Supreme Court to obtain its permission to de-reserve the concerned forest land for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages.

Keeping in view the fact that conversion of forest villages into revenue village inter-alia requires permission of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, it may not be feasible at this stage, to predict the time by which conversion of all the forest villages in the country into revenue villages will be completed.