

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4088
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2011
RELAXATION IN FOREST PROTECTION ACT
Patle Kamla Devi ;Virendra Kumar Shri

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

- (a) whether small shrubs have been shown/depicted on records of revenue land in the country including Chhattisgarh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to amend Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for tapping mineral resources in an optimum manner available in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (c) The land records in the country are maintained by the State Governments through Collectors in the Districts. The State Governments have created various categories to classify the lands as per its nature and use. The lands having small shrubs are categorized in different names, for example, "Chhote-Bade Jhad ka Jungle", "Jungle- chhoti-chhoti jhadia evam ghas-phoos", "jungle jhadi" etc. This categorization is done based on its nature.

(d) & (e) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is an Act to regulate diversion of forest land for non forestry uses including the projects for tapping mineral resources. Forest for this purpose include notified forests under various Acts, lands recorded as forests in any government record irrespective of ownership, and areas as forests in dictionary sense. The provisions of the act and rules made thereunder provide that the diversion of forest land for non forestry uses can be done only with the prior permission of the Central Government. There is no proposal at present to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.