

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:167  
ANSWERED ON:26.03.2012  
EXPLOITATION OF FORESTS  
Mohan Shri P. C.

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

- (a) whether promotion of the non-forest activities, including eco-tourism policy tends to violate various provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has taken steps to check indiscriminate exploitation of the forests in the name of promotion of tourism especially in the hilly areas of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to harmonise eco-tourism and non-forest activities, with various provisions of the said Act?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e):A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 167 ON EXPLOITATION OF FORESTS DUE FOR REPLY ON 26.03.2012.

(a), (b), (c) & (d) Use of forest land for non-forestry purposes, including those related to eco-tourism, requires prior approval of the Central Government in accordance with Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The State/ Union Territory Governments therefore, need to obtain prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for execution of those components of the eco-tourism project which as per the explanation given below Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 may be defined as non-forest purpose.

(e) A Committee has been constituted for finalizing the guidelines relating to eco-tourism in and around Protected Areas.