

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:703  
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012  
FOREST CONSERVATION ACT, 1990  
Patil Shri A.T. Nana

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

- (a) whether a number of projects lying pending with the Government under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Maharashtra;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for their speedy disposal; and
- (d) the details of work done till date by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The State-wise details of the proposals pending for grant of prior approval for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is given in the Annexure.

(c) & (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has taken various steps for speedy disposal of proposals. Among the steps taken are the provisions for general approval to diversion of forest land for public utility projects implemented by Government Departments upto 1 ha in certain specified categories and upto 2 ha for left wing extremism (LWE) affected districts; and upto 5 ha for the 60 LWE affected districts identified for implementation of Integrated Action Plan. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has delegated powers to its Regional Offices to decide proposals involving less than 5 ha of forest land except for mining and regularization of encroachment. The proposals involving forest land upto 40 ha are processed by the Regional Offices of the Ministry. Proposals involving more than 40 ha of forest land and proposals for mining and regularization of encroachment only are considered by the Forest Advisory Committee and based on its recommendation, a decision is taken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.