

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3937
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2012
RELEASE OF FOREST LAND
Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to release forest land for the development of pilgrim centres which are located in forest areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years: and
- (c) 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) Use of forest land for non-forest purposes, including for development of pilgrim centres located in the forest areas of country, requires prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Details of proposals received by the Ministry of Environment and Forests during the last three years to obtain prior approval of Central Government under the aforementioned Act for diversion of forest land for development of pilgrim/ religious centres along with current status of these proposals is annexed.