

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:223

ANSWERED ON:27.08.2012

DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND

Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia;Premajibhai Dr. Solanki Kiritbhai

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

- (a) whether the diversion of forest land for developmental purposes requires prior approval of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of such proposals received by the Government during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) the number of proposals approved, rejected or pending along with the reasons for the same; and
- (d) the time by which pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 223 BY DR. KIRIT PREMJI BHAI SOLANKI AND SHRI KACHHADIA NARANBHAI REGARDING DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND DUE FOR REPLY ON 27.08.2012.

(a) The diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes including developmental purposes require prior approval of the Central Government under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) & (c) The details of proposals received by the Central Government in the years 2010, 2011 and 2012 along with details of projects approved/ rejected by and under consideration of the Central Government is given in Annexure:

Detailed site inspection is required in proposals involving more than 100 ha of forest land. Quite often the proposals received are not complete in all respects and the Central Government has to seek further details/ documents from the concerned State Governments. These are the main reasons of pendency of the proposals.

(d) The proposals for diversion of forest land are processed in the Ministry of Environment & Forests and then considered by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The Ministry takes a decision after considering the recommendations of the Committee. Proposals involving 100 ha or more forest land are also inspected in detail by the officers of the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. The Ministry takes prompt action to consider the projects for forest clearance when projects complete in all respects are received.