

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2629

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2012

CLEARANCE TO PROJECTS NEAR TRIBAL AREAS

Laguri Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

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

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Government for providing basic amenities, roads, irrigation facilities, schools etc. in the tribal dominated areas near Reserves and Sanctuaries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) the present status of the said proposal;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to minimise the delay taking place in according to sanction in the said areas; and
- (e) the extent to which success has been achieved by the Government as a result thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The details of proposals seeking diversion of forest land for various basic amenities including roads, irrigation and schools received in the years 2010 to 2012 and their present status is attached in the Annexure.

(d) and (e) The proposals seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land are examined in accordance with the provisions of the above Act and the Rules and Guidelines framed thereunder. However, to minimise the delay in execution of certain categories of public utility infrastructure involving small extent of the forest land, the Government has granted certain exemptions and has prescribed simplified procedures to seek approvals in many others matters. They are as below:

1. The Government has granted general approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of upto 1 ha in each case for specified activities including schools, dispensaries, minor irrigation canals, rural roads and laying of underground drinking water pipe supply pipelines subject to certain conditions.
2. The above general approval has been relaxed to 2 ha in case of Left Wing Extremism affected districts and further to 5 ha in each case in respect of 60 Left Wing Extremism affected districts identified by Planning Commission and Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. The Government has also laid down the procedure for diversion of forest land for certain activities as specified in the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 like schools, dispensaries, minor irrigation canals and tanks, roads and community centres. Decisions for diversion of forest land for these facilities in this regard can be taken at the District level itself.
4. All the proposals seeking diversion of forest land for non forestry purposes upto 5ha, other than mining, and not covered by general approvals, are decided at the Regional Office of the Ministry level and need not be submitted for the approval of the Minister of Environment and Forests.
5. The Ministry has also permitted upgradation of Kuchcha roads constructed on forest land prior to 1980 to pucca roads without seeking approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to certain conditions.