

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3717
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2012
VILLAGES UNDER CONSERVED FOREST AREA
Singh Shri Bhupendra

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

- (a) the number of villages situated in the conserved forest areas of the country, State/Union Territory-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for relocation of these villages outside the conserved forest areas;
- (c) if so, the details of the said scheme;
- (d) the number of villages relocated outside the conserved areas so far in the country, State/Union Territory-wise;
- (e) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent any proposal to the Ministry for the said purpose;
- (f) if so, the details of the said proposal; and
- (g) the reasons for not according approval to the said proposal so far?

Answer

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

(a) The term 'conserved forest area' is not in use in this Ministry. However, Protected Areas including sanctuaries, national parks, conservation reserves and community reserves are notified by the concerned Governments in accordance with the provisions contained under Chapter IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. In addition, the term 'protected areas' is also understood to include 'tiger reserves' notified as such under section 38V of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The details of number of villages situated in forest areas, including the protected areas, are not generally collated in the Ministry. However, the details of villages located inside the core/critical tiger habitat of tiger reserves, as reported by States, are at Annexure-I.

(b),(c)&(d) The Ministry supplements the efforts of State/Union Territory Governments through financial assistance for voluntary relocation of villages from the Protected Areas. Subject to the availability of budgetary allocation under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' and 'Project Tiger', funding support is provided to States for voluntary relocation of villages on mutually agreed terms and conditions, as per the provisions contained in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, read with the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. The number of families, for whose relocation from National Parks and Sanctuaries, financial assistance has been provided by the Ministry during the last three years under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' are at Annexure-II. The status of village relocation from tiger reserves, as reported by State Governments, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Project Tiger' is at Annexure-III.

(e)&(f) During the financial year 2012-13, the State Government of Madhya Pradesh had submitted proposals for relocation of 169 families from Orchha Sanctuary and 9 villages from Ratapani Sanctuary under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats'. As the proposal for relocation of families was not in accordance with the provisions contained under the scheme, it has not been considered by the Ministry.