

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:990
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2013
CONVERSION OF FOREST VILLAGES
Tandon Shri Lal Ji

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to convert forest villages into revenue villages in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Uttar Pradesh;
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the time by which all the villages are likely to be converted into revenues villages?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) As per available information, a total of 58 proposals were received for diversion of forest land for the purpose of Conversion of Forest Villages into Revenue Villages from Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra and Uttarakhand States, out of which 16 proposals for 514 villages involving an area of 41,170.01 ha have been cleared.

The Ministry accords approval for the proposals submitted by State Governments for conversion of forest villages to revenue villages under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Permission of Supreme Court of India is also required for de-reservation of forest land as per its order dated 13.11.2000 in W.P. (Civil) No. 337 of 1995. However, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, under the Section 3 (1) (h) recognizes the settlement and conversion of forest villages, whether recorded, notified or not, into revenue villages as a forest right. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the Nodal Ministry for implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.