

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5353
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2013
RESERVED FOREST AREA
Naqvi Shri Zafar Ali

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

- (a) whether the trees planted along the connecting roads of villages main district roads, roads of Nagar Panchayats and District Panchayats within the city are included in the definition of Reserved Forest Area;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the boundary and definition of Reserve Forest Area;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to amend it;
- (d) if so, there details thereof;
- (e) whether there is any rule for cutting or felling of trees without taking permission in this regard from the Ministry from service lanes and near petrol pumps and commercial establishments to be set up on National Highways, main district roads and State Highways;
- (f) if so, the details of the said rule; and
- (g) the number of such petrol pumps which have taken permission for cutting trees planted on roads connecting them with the main road?

Answer

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

- (a) The State/ U.T. Governments have powers under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and respective State Acts/ Rules to declare any areas as Reserved Forest or Protected Forest.
- (b) Such details are not compiled at the Ministry level.
- (c) There is no proposal to amend the Indian Forest Act, 1927 in this regard.
- (d) Question does not arise.
- (e)& (f) Permission for felling/ cutting of trees and their transit is regulated by Felling and transit rules of concerned States/ UT Governments. However, if the construction of service lane and petrol pump involves use of forest land, prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diverting such forest land also needs to be obtained.
- (g) Details of petrol pumps which have taken permission for cutting trees are not compiled at the Ministry level.