

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5207
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2013
DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND
Panda Shri Baijayant

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has identified grounds under which forest land can be diverted for industrial use under the Forest Rights Act, 2006;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any objections from the State Governments have been received in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise along with the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH)

(a): Section 3(2) of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 provides for diversion of forest land only for certain developmental facilities managed by the Government which involve felling of trees not exceeding seventy-five trees per hectare, like (a) schools; (b) dispensary or hospital; (c) anganwadis; (d) fair price shops; (e) electric and telecommunication lines; (f) tanks and other minor water bodies; (g) drinking water supply and water pipelines; (h) water or rain water harvesting structures; (i) minor irrigation canals; (j) non-conventional source of energy; (k) skill upgradation or vocational training centres; (l) roads; and (m) community centres; provided the forest land to be diverted for those facilities is less than one hectare in each case and the developmental project is recommended by the Gram Sabha. The Forest Rights Act, 2006 does not envisage diversion of forest land for industrial uses.

(a) to (d) : In view of the reply to part (a) above, these questions do not arise.