

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2060
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009
FOREST LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES
Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahb

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

- (a) whether the State Government have to provide double measurement of land to the forest department for making use of certain area of forest land for public development schemes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;
- (b) if so, whether various State Governments have requested the Union Government to allow them to provide the equal measurement of land in lieu of the forest land to be utilised by them;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Union Government proposes to make amendments in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (c) The Central Government has accorded a general approval for diversion of Forest land for undertaking developmental activities by the State Government Departments for the welfare of the people and involving upto 1 ha of forest land. For such public development schemes having upto 1.00 ha, no Compensatory Afforestation is required, as a specific measure in exception to the guidelines. In case of more than 1.00 ha of forest land required by the State Government/State Government Undertakings, Compensatory Afforestation is proposed on equivalent non-forest land, wherein, the non-forest land also includes revenue lands/ civil-soyam lands/ zudpi jungle/ chhote/ bade jhar ka jungle/jungle-jhari land and all other such categories of lands. Some of the State Governments have requested to exempt them from providing equivalent non-forest land and let them take up compensatory afforestation over degraded forest land developed in extend to the area being diverted as was being done in the proposals of Central Government Undertakings.

(d) & (e) The present scheme has worked well and the rate of diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes has decreased from 1,43,000 ha to around 30,500 ha. The proposals received from the various State Governments have been examined and the Central Government has decided to continue with the present system of Compensatory Afforestation. Accordingly, no amendment in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has been proposed in this regard.