

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1060
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2013
PROTECTION TO RESERVE FORESTS
Bavalia Shri Kuvarjibhai Mohanbhai

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

- (a) whether the pasture lands meant for grazing the cattle are being converted into industrial areas;
- (b) if so, whether the forest areas in the State are being used for other purposes without the permission of the Government;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government including framing the policy so as to protect the reserve Forests?

Answer

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

- (a) There are no reports available with this Ministry of pasture lands meant for grazing cattle being converted into industrial areas.
- (b) & (c) As per the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, no diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes is permissible without the prior approval of the Central Government.
- (d) State/UT Governments take necessary action as per provisions under various Acts, for example, the Indian Forest Act 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, and State Acts regarding protection and conservation of forest including Reserve Forests. Government of India provides Grants-in-aid to States /UTs under Intensification of Forest Management Scheme. The aim of the Scheme is to supplement the efforts of the States for forest protection. Funds under the Scheme are utilized for patrolling of the forests, establishment of camps, building fire watchtowers, creation and maintenance of fire line, forest fire control, survey and demarcation of forest areas and strengthening of forest infrastructure etc. Government of India also provides funds under Schemes like National Afforestation Programme and 13th Finance Commission for afforestation and improvement of degraded forest land with the purpose of eco-restoration and providing livelihood support to forest dependent communities. Under Joint Forest Management, forests are conserved and managed through peoples' participation. Government of India has also enacted Forest Rights Act, 2006 with the purpose of recognising the traditional forest rights of Scheduled tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dweller, under which the traditional forest right of tribals and other traditional dwellers are being recognised.