

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1160
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2013
USE OF DEGRADED LAND
Adhi Sankar Shri

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian paper industry has requested the Government for use of degraded land for plantation;
- (b) if so, the details and the present status thereof;
- (c) whether the United Nations` Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has approved such a model of plantation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to approve the said proposal?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): The paper industry had requested for the use of degraded forest land for plantation. Accordingly, Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion) set up a Working Group on Pulp and Paper Sector to suggest suitable interventions to accelerate the growth of the Paper Sector during the 12th Plan (2012-17). Under this Working Group, a Sub-Committee was set up on Raw material on wood based sector. This Sub-Committee also recommended the use of degraded forest lands for plantation of trees for the paper industry.

(c) & (d): This Ministry is not aware of any approval of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on such models of plantations.