GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2716
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2013
RELAXATION IN CLEARANCE NORMS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has relaxed clearance norms to the naxal affected districts of the country to divert forest to divert forest land for creation of certain public utility infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof and fields in which these norms have been relaxed;

(c) whether any limit of forest land to be used for this purpose has been fixed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which infrastructure in these districts is likely to be improved?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to(d) As a special measure to boost development of basic infrastructure in 117 Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts identified for implementation of Integrated Action Plan (IAP) by the Planning Commission and Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme by Ministry of Home Affairs, general approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been accorded by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for diversion of forest land upto five hectares in each case, for execution of public utility projects of specified categories namely, Schools; Dispensaries/Hospitals; Electrical and Telecommunication Lines; Drinking Water; Water/Rain Water Harvesting Structures; Minor Irrigation Canals; Non-Conventional Sources of Energy; Skill Up Gradation/ Vocational Training Centre; Power Sub-Stations; all Category of Public Roads; Communication Posts; Police establishments like Police Stations/Outposts/Border Outposts/Watch Towers in sensitive areas (identified by Ministry of Home Affairs); Underground laying of optical fiber cables, telephone lines and drinking water supplies; and quarrying of materials for construction of public roads by Government Departments.