

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2756
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2013
CONSTRUCTION WORKS IN FOREST AREAS
Kurup Shri N.Peethambara

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

- (a) whether the Government has issued any directions for undertaking construction work in forests and tribal areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government to prevent the construction work in the forests of the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 inter-alia provides that notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force in a State, no State Government or other authority shall make, except with the prior approval of the Central Government, any order directing that any forest land or any portion thereof may be used for any non-forest purpose. Construction works in forest areas therefore, require prior approval of Central Government under section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act. 1980. Such approvals are accorded by the Central Government only when diversion of forest land is bare minimum and unavoidable after examination of all possible alternatives.