

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2888
ANSWERED ON:10.02.2014
DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND
Kanubhai Patel Jayshreeben

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to exempt the submission of Collector's Certificate under Forest Rights Act, 2006 for diversion of forest land for linear projects in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (Dr. M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a) to (c) Ministry of Environment and Environment (MoEF) vide letter dated 3rd August 2009 issued detailed guidelines on submission of evidences for having initiated and completed the process of settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

MoEF vide letter dated 5th February 2013 informed the States and Union Territories that proposals seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for projects like construction of roads, canals, laying of pipelines/ optical fibers and transmission lines etc. where linear diversion of use of forest land in several villages are involved, unless recognised rights of Primitive Tribal Groups and Pre-Agricultural Communities are being affected, are exempted from the requirement of obtaining consent of the concerned Gram Sabha(s) as stipulated in clause (c) read with clause (e) and clause (f) in second para of the said guidelines dated 3rd August 2009. There is no proposal to further relax the said guidelines.