

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5539
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015
PERMISSION BY REGIONAL OFFICE
Patel Smt. Jayshreeben

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

(a) whether it is feasible to authorise Regional Office to accord permission for diversion of forest land upto 40 ha. so as to expedite the process of approval; and

(b) if so, whether the Government intends to take such a step?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) Central Government has already notified the Forest (Conservation) Second Amendment Rules, 2014 to provide for inter-alia constitution of a Regional Empowered Committee at each Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The afore-mentioned Rules also provide for delegation of powers to Regional Empowered Committees to finally dispose of proposals seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 5 hectares to 40 hectares of forest land in each case, except the proposals relating to mining, regularization of encroachments and hydel projects. These Rules also provides for delegation of powers to the Regional Empowered Committees to finally dispose of proposals seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land required for linear projects irrespective of the area of forest land involved.