

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2354
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2015
Allotment of Forest Land
Puttaraju Shri C.S.

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

- (a) whether several States in the country have allotted the forest land to the industries without obtaining the approval of the Ministry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(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. Use of forest land for non-forest purposes including industries therefore, requires prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

In some of the proposals, the State Governments report violations of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Central Government while according prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to such proposals stipulate appropriate penal measures. These penal measures include – realisation from the user agency penal Net Present Value (NPV) and funds for creation of penal compensatory afforestation, initiation of proceedings in accordance with the provisions of the section 3 A and 3 B of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and/or relevant sections of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and/or the relevant sections of the Local Forest Act, as the facts of each case may demand.
