

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5339
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2015
DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND FOR LARGE PROJECTS
Rajesh Shri M. B.

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recommended or permitted diversion of forest land for any large projects in the last one year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has issued any clearances by giving exemptions in the provisions of Forest Rights Act (FRA) for large projects in the same period;
- (d) if so, the details of clearances given along with the estimated tribal population affected/ likely to be affected by such projects in the same period; and
- (e) whether major projects are pending with the Government seeking exemption from FRA for the last one year and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA)

- (a): The Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change accords clearance for diversion of forest land for non forest purposes as per The Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 and the process laid down there under. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is neither the recommending/sanctioning authority for any project(s) nor does it have the mandate to recommend or permit diversion of forest land for project(s).
- (b): In view of reply to (a) above, question does not arise.
- (c): Forest Rights Act (FRA) is to recognize and vest individual and community rights which were traditionally enjoyed by the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers. It has no exemption provisions.
- (d)& (e): In view of reply to (c) above, questions do not arise.