

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:239
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2014
DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND
Kumar Dr. Virendra

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

- (a) whether some States have reportedly diverted and allotted the forest land to industrial units without prior permission/clearance from the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, along with the details of provisions in the Forest (Conservation) Act for use of forest land for non-forest purposes; and
- (c) the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 239 BY DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR REGARDING 'DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND' DUE FOR REPLY ON 23.07.2014.

(a) and (b) Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change does not have any specific information that some States have diverted and allotted forest land to industrial units without prior permission/ clearance from the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. 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.

(c) Section 3A of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 inter-alia provides that whoever contravenes or abets the contravention of any of the provisions of Section 2, shall be punishable with simple imprisonment for a period, which may extend to fifteen days.

Central Government has authorized the Chief Conservator of Forests, Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change having regional jurisdiction over the forest land in respect of which any offence under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is alleged to have been committed, to file complaints against persons prima -facie found guilty of such offence, in the court having jurisdiction in the matter.