

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1988

ANSWERED ON:23.07.2014

FOREST LAND DIVERSION

Chautala Shri Dushyant;Lokhande Shri Sadashiv Kisan

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

- (a) whether forest land is diverted in a large scale across the country for various projects including coal mining, thermal power plants and industrial and river valley projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of proposals received from various State Governments including Maharashtra for diversion of forest land; and
- (d) the present status of these proposals State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) Since 25.10.1980, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has granted approval for diversion of 11,89,294 ha of forest land for non-forestry purposes involving 23,511 proposals of various categories. Details of proposals received from various State Governments including Maharashtra for diversion of forest land for various categories of projects including coal mining, thermal power plants and industrial and river valley projects is given in Annexure -I.

Use of forest land for non-forest purpose requires prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Such approvals are given in accordance with the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003 and the guidelines under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 issued by the Central Government. Such approvals are accorded only when diversion of forest land is bare minimum and unavoidable after examination of all possible alternatives.