

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3835

ANSWERED ON:06.08.2014

DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram;Chinnaraj Shri Gopalakrishnan;Nete Shri Ashok Mahadeorao

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

- (a) whether the Government has received proposals from various State Governments for diversion of forest land for developmental projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Maharashtra and the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether a large number of proposals are pending with the Union Government for clearance; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Since 25.10.1980, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has received 28,900 proposals seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 including 2,136 proposals from the State Government of Maharashtra. State wise detail of proposals received from various State/UT Governments for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes and action taken thereof is given in Annexure -I.

(c) & (d) Receipt of proposals seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes and approval of these proposals is a continuous process. As and when proposals, complete in all respects, are received from the State/UT Governments, the Central Government takes prompt decision on the proposal. Major reasons for delay in taking decision on proposals seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose are- receipt of incomplete proposals; delay in submission of additional information/documents, including those related to settlement of Rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 on the forest land proposed to be diverted sought by the Central Government; need for further studies to assess impact of project on flora and fauna etc. Approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land is accorded only if the requirement of forest land is unavoidable and bare minimum.