

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3912  
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2014  
CONVERSION OF FOREST VILLAGES  
Singh Shri Ganesh

**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 conversion of forest villages into revenue villages;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Madhya Pradesh; and
- (c) the steps 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) The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 recognizes the settlement and conversion of forest villages, whether recorded, notified or not, into revenue villages as a forest right. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is the nodal agency for implementation of this Act. The said Act also provides that the forest rights shall be conferred free of all encumbrances and procedural requirements including clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has also issued guidelines on 8.11.2013 regarding conversion of all forest villages, old habitations, unsurveyed into revenue villages under section 3(1)(h) of the said Act.

Prior to enactment of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, proposals for diversion of forest land for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages were considered in accordance with the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and rules made thereunder. The details of approval granted under this Act are given at Annexure.