

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3828  
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2014  
ALLOTMENT OF FOREST LAND  
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

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

- (a) whether the Government has prescribed a policy for allotment of forest land for developing pilgrim's centres and providing facilities to the pilgrims and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has received proposals from various States for allotment of forest land for providing amenities to pilgrims including at Sabarimala in Kerala; and
- (c) if so, the details and present status thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) All the proposals for diversion of forest land received from the various State/UT Governments for various purposes including amenities to pilgrims are considered as per the procedure laid down under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, its rules and guidelines. No separate policy for developing pilgrim's centre and providing facilities to the pilgrims have been prescribed. 23,784 proposals have been granted approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 allowing use of 12,05,138 ha of forest land for non-forestry purposes including activities for providing amenities to pilgrims at Sabarimala in Kerala till 27th November, 2014.