

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 26.07.2010**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND IN ANDHRA PRADESH .**

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Shri Nandi Yellaiah

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :-

(a) whether any decision has been taken on the request of Andhra Pradesh Government for diversion of 1016 hectares of forest land in Poddatur, Kadapa, Rajampet and Nellore division for foreshore submersion and excavation of canals under Somasila Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof: and

(c) the reasons for delay in acceding to this request made way back in August 2007?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment & Forest vide its letter No. 8-79/2007-FC dated 30.06.2008 requested its Southern Regional Office, Bangalore to obtain from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh papers conveying prior permission of the National Board for Wildlife and the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as a part of the forest area proposed to be diverted falls within Sri Penusila Narsimha Swamy Wildlife Sanctuary and Lankamelleswaram Wildlife Sanctuary. Pending receipt of reply from the Regional Office, Bangalore on approval from the National Board for Wildlife and the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, decision on diversion of the said forest land could not be taken by the Ministry of Environment & Forests.