

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.701**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2018

**Compensatory afforestation in degraded forests**

701.SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that while the Central Government has allowed the compensatory afforestation to be taken up in twice the area of degraded forests, for forest diversion proposals of Central Government Public Sector Units (PSUs), but similar provision has not been allowed for the forest diversion proposals for the projects of State PSUs;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Odisha Government and other State Governments have requested for similar dispensation for State PSUs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and decision taken on these requests?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

- (a) and (b):The requirement of Land for Compensatory Afforestation, in lieu of proposed diversion of forest land, has been specified in para 3.2of the guidelines issued by this Ministry under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, which states that Compensatory afforestation shall be done over equivalent area of non-forest land. However, as an exception, compensatory afforestation may be raised over degraded forest land twice in extent of the forest area being diverted/de-reserved in respect of following types of proposals:
  - (i) For extraction of minor materials from the river beds. (However, if forest area to be diverted is above 500 hectares, compensatory afforestation over equivalent area of degraded forest shall be required to be done instead of twice the area being diverted subject to a minimum of 1000 hectare compensatory afforestation).
  - (ii) For construction of link roads, small water works, minor irrigation works, school building, dispensaries, hospital, tiny rural industrial sheds of the Government or any other similar work excluding mining and encroachment cases, which directly benefit the people of the area – in hill districts and in other districts having forest area

- exceeding 50% of the total geographical area, provided diversion of forest area does not exceed 20 hectares.
- (iii) For laying of transmission line upto 220 KV.
  - (iv) For mulberry plantation undertaken for silkworm rearing without any felling of existing trees.
  - (v) For diversion of linear or 'strip' plantation declared as protected forest along with road/rail/canal sides for widening or expansion of road/rail/canal.
  - (vi) For laying of telephone / optical fibre lines.

In addition to above, there are special provisions for Central Government/Central Government Undertaking Projects that Compensatory afforestation may be raised on degraded forest land twice in extent of forest area being diverted. Certificate of Chief Secretary regarding non-availability of non-forest land for compensatory afforestation will not be insisted. These provisions of the guideline would be applicable to only Central Sector projects and not on State Sector Projects.

(c) and (d): Few State Governments/Organisations have requested for similar dispensation for State PSUs, but the same has not been agreed to.

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