

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1322
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023

Provision for requirement of land for Compensatory Afforestation

1322. DR. AMAR PATNAIK:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Compensatory Afforestation (CA) shall be raised on degraded notified, or unclassified forest land, twice the extent of the forest area diverted, only in case of projects implemented by Central Government Agencies/ Central Public Sector Undertakings;
- (b) whether in view of the fact that projects implemented by State Government and State Sector Projects are delayed for approval under Forest (Conservation) Rule, 2022 due to non-availability of CA land in the State, Central Government would extend above provision to State PSUs and State Government Agencies as well; and
- (c) if so, by when, if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) to (c) As per the previous contained in the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 notified by the Central Government on 29.11.2023, the Compensatory Afforestation is to be raised over land which is neither notified as forest under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 (16 of 1927) or any other law nor managed as forest by the Forest Department.

Further, in exceptional circumstances, there is a provision to consider the Compensatory Afforestation on degraded forest land which is twice in extent to the area proposed to be diverted in case of the State Public Sector Undertaking for captive coal blocks and the Central Government agencies on case to case basis.

The revenue forest lands which are not notified as forest under any law and not managed by the Forest Department, the degraded Unclassed State Forest in the State of Arunachal Pradesh, the waste lands in the State of Himachal Pradesh falling under the category of Protected Forest which have been neither been demarcated on the ground nor transferred and mutated in the name of forest department in the revenue records can also be considered for Compensatory

Afforestation in case of non-availability of non- Forest land. In these cases also the area for Compensatory Afforestation has to be at least double in extent of the area being diverted.

Special dispensation for raising compensatory afforestation over degraded forest land, minimum double in extent of the area diverted, has also been provided in case of the States or Union territory Administrations, having forest area more than 33% of their total geographical area provided that a certificate on non-availability of suitable non-forest land for raising compensatory afforestation is furnished by the State Government /Union territory Administration in the specified format.

The dispensation for raising compensatory afforestation over degraded forest land, minimum double in extent of area diverted is also provided in case of following proposals:

- (a) transmission line projects;
- (b) laying of telephone or optical fibre lines;
- (c) mulberry plantation undertaken for silkworm rearing;
- (d) extraction of minor materials from the river beds;
- (e) 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 5 hectares;
- (g) actual impact zone of the field firing range considered for diversion under the Adhinyam or 10% of the total forest area diverted in case entire area of the field firing range is proposed for diversion
