

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 697
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2026

Permissions for tree felling and forest diversion

697. SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

- (a) the number of permissions/approvals granted by the Central Government for tree felling and forest diversion during the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) the area of forest land diverted for infrastructure, industrial, mining, energy, transport, urban development and other projects during the said period, year-wise and project-wise;
- (c) the number of trees approved for felling and the number of trees actually felled, year-wise during the said period;
- (d) the break-up of forest diversion and tree felling approvals during the said period, State-wise; and
- (e) whether Government has assessed the cumulative environmental impact of such large-scale tree felling and forest diversion?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e) The proposals for diversion of forest land including all development projects are considered for approval on case to case basis under the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and rules and guidelines issued thereunder. As per the conditions of approval, the States/UTs concerned have to ensure that minimum number of trees are felled and wherever feasible translocation of trees are to be done. The permission for felling of trees are given by the concerned States/UTs under various Acts, Rules, Guidelines and in accordance with the relevant directions of Hon'ble Courts, if any. The data of trees felled in such cases is not maintained at the level of the Central Government.

During the period from 2020-21 to 2024-25, The Central Government has granted prior approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes to 6188 proposals involving 92,062.85 hectare of forest land for non-forestry use. The year wise and category wise details of approvals granted from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

In accordance with the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and the rules framed thereunder, proposals received from the State Governments are

comprehensively examined by the Advisory Committee constituted under Section 3 of the Adhiniyam. Such examination includes due diligence in assessing the direct and indirect impacts of diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes on forests, wildlife, and the environment. Keeping in view the impact of the project on flora and fauna, additional mitigation measures such as Soil and Moisture Conservation works, Wildlife Management Plans, and Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plans are stipulated on a case-to-case basis, wherever necessary. Further, in accordance with the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, wherever applicable, impact assessment studies are conducted prior to the grant of environmental clearance, on a case-to-case basis.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply of part (a) to (e) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 697 due for answer on 05.02.2026 asked by Smt. Renuka Chowdhury regarding 'Permissions for tree felling and forest diversion'

Statement Showing Category wise area approved (in Ha.) by the Central Government for use of land non-forestry purpose under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980													
All State / UTs		During the Period : 01.04.2020 to 31.03.2025											
S. No.	Category	2020-2021		2021-2022		2022-2023		2023-2024		2024-2025		Grand Total	
		No. of Proposals	Area Diverted (in Ha.)	No. of Proposals	Area Diverted (in Ha.)	No. of Proposals	Area Diverted (in Ha.)	No. of Proposals	Area Diverted (in Ha.)	No. of Proposals	Area Diverted (in Ha.)	No. of Proposals	Area Diverted (in Ha.)
1	Airport	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.09	1	0.09
2	Canal	2	5.89	1	6.88	2	3.02	3	2.70	17	61.59	25	80.09
3	Communication Post	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	38	2.86	288	7.18	326	10.05
4	Defence	4	2588.91	15	392.61	15	254.19	31	2288.51	32	444.38	97	5968.61
5	Dispensary/Hospital	1	0.85	2	11.02	4	6.81	3	10.76	1	1.06	11	30.51
6	Drinking Water	20	446.84	14	39.76	18	92.53	28	139.70	55	242.11	135	960.93
7	Encroachments	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	8.38	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	8.38
8	Exploration & Survey	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	0.00	11	0.00	13	0.00
9	Forest Village Conversion	3	210.00	6	298.27	2	394.80	1	166.00	2	293.64	14	1362.71
10	Hydel / Irrigation	32	2126.82	38	2006.12	33	2480.65	34	8112.25	31	2689.78	168	17415.62
11	Industry	3	43.27	4	31.96	6	5.93	7	25.26	9	44.01	29	150.43
12	Mining / Quarrying	27	2396.21	37	3938.61	32	3573.97	52	5611.24	41	3392.74	189	18912.77
13	Non-Conventional Source of Energy	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	5.83	4	5.83
14	Optical Fibre Cable	1	0.32	3	0.44	2	0.86	19	10.05	43	31.44	68	43.12
15	Petrol Pumps	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	88	9.77	174	31.91	262	41.68
16	Pipeline	8	21.99	30	49.81	25	122.43	113	127.27	134	135.80	310	457.29

17	Police Establishment (identified by MHA)	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.93	1	0.93
18	Power Sub Station	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	36.00	1	2.00	2	38.00
19	Power Transmission Line	91	2258.62	132	2708.08	79	1994.00	110	1951.07	148	3813.86	560	12725.63
20	Railway	26	1049.62	43	1169.13	55	1700.46	29	284.78	24	1752.98	177	5956.96
21	Re-Diversion/Land Use Change	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	16	0.00	16	0.00
22	Rehabilitation	3	42.50	7	86.90	3	75.11	4	833.45	5	470.59	22	1508.55
23	Road	425	5007.10	637	4886.65	633	4499.24	572	3729.21	407	3571.54	2674	21693.73
24	School / Educational Institution	1	0.01	1	36.98	5	6.23	8	12.32	14	26.23	29	81.78
25	Solar Power	0	0.00	1	1.00	0	0.00	1	0.47	0	0.00	2	1.47
26	Sub Station	4	37.74	3	1.89	2	0.86	3	5.78	8	19.02	20	65.29
27	Telecommunication Line	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	9	0.59	0	0.00	9	0.59
28	Thermal	1	38.10	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.95	0	0.00	2	39.05
29	Village Electricity	2	2.19	13	373.16	3	116.59	1	5.83	1	0.64	20	498.40
30	Water / Rainwater Harvesting Structure	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.39	1	0.39
31	Wind Power	1	0.30	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.30
32	Others	167	1267.06	226	680.91	170	659.60	195	497.02	241	899.10	999	4003.68
Grand Total		822	17544.35	1213	16720.15	1090	15995.67	1353	23863.83	1710	17938.85	6188	92062.85
