

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2154
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2026

Clearances to infrastructure in Vidarbha

2154 SHRI MUKUL WASNIK:

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

- (a) the land area currently classified as 'Jhudpi Jungle' (shrub forests) across six districts of the Vidarbha region in Maharashtra (Nagpur, Wardha, Bhandara, Gondia, Chandrapur and Gadchiroli);
- (b) the current status of central Government clearances under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Ministry to fast-track the regularisation of public infrastructure (such as schools, hospitals and railway networks) and residential slums built on these lands; and
- (d) the joint measures being coordinated with the State Government of Maharashtra to implement the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for data submission and forest reclassification?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): As per the information provided by the State Government of Maharashtra, an area of 86,409.55 hectares of 'Jhudpi Jungle' has been reported across the six districts of Nagpur, Wardha, Bhandara, Gondia, Chandrapur and Gadchiroli.

In accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 22.05.2025 in I.A. Nos. 66986 and 74569 of 2025 in W.P. (C) No. 202 of 1995, the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) has prescribed a simplified procedure for submission of proposals seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for de-listing of 'Jhudpi Jungle' land parcels. In pursuance of the said procedure, the Ministry, in consultation with the Government of Maharashtra, has developed and operationalised a dedicated end-to-end online module on the PARIVESH Portal for submission, processing and approval of proposals relating to de-listing of Jhudpi Jungle land. A detailed user manual has also been prepared and made available on the PARIVESH Portal to facilitate submission of proposals by the State Government. Further, capacity-building and training sessions have been conducted for the officers of the Government of Maharashtra to facilitate the submission and processing of proposals relating to the de-listing of Jhudpi Jungle land parcels on PARIVESH portal.

The proposals received from the State Government are processed by the Central Government in accordance with the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, the Rules made thereunder, the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, and the procedure prescribed by the Central Empowered Committee.
