

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. 97
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.11.2019

Temporary use of Forest Land

*97. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has allowed the forest land to be used 'temporarily' by any person, firm or organisation, except the 'protected areas';
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has decided upon a specific definition of 'temporary' use of forest land and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has evaluated the environmental impact of the decision on the forests, nearby regions, forest dwellers, wildlife and the ecosystem in general; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the plans of the Government to mitigate such impact?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

- (a) to (e) The Ministry with a view to allow temporary work of emergent nature, issued guidelines on 07.10.2014, allowing use of the forest land for a short period without involving felling of tree, breaking of land, assigning it on lease or otherwise. While taking such decisions, the State Government shall ensure that such use of forest land is for public purposes and allowed for a period of not more than two-week time. Before allowing such use, it shall be ascertained that there is no alternate non forest land available.

This guideline has been issued with a view to allow use of forestland during emergent and unavoidable situations without causing any adverse impact on forest, forest dwellers, wildlife and ecosystem. Keeping this in view, it is specifically stipulated to ensure that there is no tree felling, breaking of land and involvement of 'protected areas'.
