

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOKSABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1073
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.11.2019

Forest Land Rights

1073. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to extend the unreserved forest land rights from one hectare to ten hectares in case of Government projects under general approval;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to include petrol pump-gas stations in the ambit of these activities under general approval; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a) to (d) The Ministry has accorded General Approval for use of forest area upto one hectare for non-forest purposes, for the development of public utility and welfare projects undertaken by the Government, subject to certain conditions, including the following;

- i. The area shall not involve felling of more than 50 trees per/ha.
- ii. User Agency shall plant and maintain ten times the number of trees felled on the diverted land to maintain the green cover at the project cost.
- iii. The forest area involved is not within a National Park and/or a Wild Life Sanctuary.

The public utility and welfare projects which can be taken up under this General Approval are as follows:

- i. Schools/Educational Institutes;
- ii. Dispensary/hospital;
- iii. Electric and telecommunication lines;
- iv. Drinking water;
- v. Water/rainwater harvesting structures;
- vi. Minor irrigation canal;
- vii. Non-conventional sources of energy;
- viii. Skill up-gradation / vocational training center;
- ix. Power sub stations;
- x. Communication posts;

- xi. Construction/widening of roads including approach road to roadside establishments
- xii. Upgradation/strengthening/widening of existing bridges by BRO
- xiii. Police establishments like police stations /outposts /border outposts /towers in sensitive areas (identified by Ministry of Home Affairs)
- xiv. Government approved community toilets partly or fully in forest lands involving not more than one-hectare subject to approval by GP in rural areas and urban bodies in urban areas, and
- xv. Water mills

At present there is no proposal for extension of General Approval from one hectare to ten hectares and to include petrol pump gas stations in the ambit of this General Approval.
