

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *390
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2020

Forest Conservation Act, 1980

*390. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI PINAKI MISRA

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

- (a) the year-wise extent of forest lands of each State diverted since 2008 under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for non-forestry activities and the status of compliance of FRA especially Community Forest Resource rights in case of forest land diversions;
- (b) the forest lands diverted for non-forest purpose under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 since 1980, year-wise and State-wise;
- (c) whether the compensation for denying/ extinguishing of forest rights of forest dwellers recognised under Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been provided, if so, the amount of compensation given in each State and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Ministry has made exemptions to comply with FRA provisions in certain cases;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and action taken on violations thereof; and
- (f) whether there has been any reduction in total area under natural forests due to coal mines since 2000, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 390 ASKED BY SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH AND SHRI PINAKI MISRA REGARDING 'FOREST CONSERVATION ACT, 1980' DUE FOR REPLY ON 20.03.2020

- (a) & (b) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched an online portal namely 'PARIVESH' for submission and processing of online proposals for approval of use of forest land for non-forestry purposes under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. As per the information available in the portal a total of **3616** projects involving **69414.32** hectares of forest land have been approved for non-forest use under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in the last five years. The State/UT-wise details are **annexed**. During the same period Compensatory Afforestation (CA) has been stipulated over more than **126000** hectares. The State/UT-wise and year-wise details of CA stipulated over forest land and non-forest land in the last five years are **annexed**.

As per Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003 (and amendments made thereafter), it is mandatory for the State Government to submit a certificate regarding complete compliance of the process of identification and settlement of rights under Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA) prior to approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

- (c) Land acquisition is undertaken by the Central and State Governments under various Central and State Acts, including the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 (RFCTLARR Act, 2013) and the provisions of the RFCTLARR Act, 2013 are implemented by appropriate Government as defined under Section 3 (e) of the said Act. As such information on State/UT wise land acquired, rehabilitation and resettlement are not maintained at Central Government level.

Under Section-5 of FRA, Gram Sabha is, inter-alia, empowered to ensure that the decisions taken in Gram Sabha to regulate access to community forest resources and stop any activity which adversely affects the wild animals, forest and the biodiversity are complied with.

- (d)& (e) No exemption has been provided for compliance with FRA provisions.

- (f) Site-specific non-forestry activities including coal mining are generally permitted in forest areas as per the provisions under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In such cases, in order to compensate the loss of natural forest areas and ecosystem services Net Present Value (NPV) is levied and Compensatory Afforestation (CA) over equivalent non-forest land or double degraded forest land is stipulated. In addition, adequate safeguards and appropriate mitigation measures are also stipulated on case to case basis such as:

- i. implementation of Catchment Area Treatment Plan,
- ii. implementation of Soil and Moisture Conservation activities,
- iii. maintenance of safety zone etc.

16	Jharkhand	41	NEP	48.00	4.53	508.22	3.67	128.93	298.53	105.41	143.07	2277.54	449.80	3068.11
17	Karnataka	67	16.40	118.012	232.44	24.04	95.20	337.51	261.77	77.98	106.48	2.27	712.28	559.81
18	Kerala	8	4.93	NEP	1.96	18.00	NEP	8.80	NEP	NEP	0.50	NEP	7.39	26.80
19	Lakshadweep	0	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP
20	Madhya Pradesh	314	1073.86	2093.90	1224.71	779.89	584.68	256.89	419.24	1658.71	1559.30	9859.65	4861.78	14649.03
21	Maharashtra	44	472.16	1596.65	799.65	890.03	1245.09	386.68	817.15	551.89	571.30	1690.16	3905.37	5115.42
22	Manipur	9	NEP	625.40	NEP	150.10	NEP	380.49	NEP	2266.25	NEP	NEP	NEP	3422.24
23	Meghalaya	2	138.11	NEP	NEP	12.36	4.82	8.50	NEP	NEP	NEP	9.74	142.93	30.60
24	Mizoram	2	NEP	169.76	NEP	NEP	NEP	3.85	NEP	18.78	17.50	NEP	17.50	192.39
25	Nagaland	0	NEP	0.00	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP
26	Odisha	87	2436.70	3726.92	424.96	658.00	78.65	433.06	1183.23	1589.88	2300.32	5540.12	6423.86	11947.98
27	Pondicherry	0	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP	NEP
28	Punjab	845	NEP	553.65	NEP	357.64	NEP	149.56	46.54	1424.42	4.93	1272.91	51.47	3758.18
29	Rajasthan	97	228.76	2801.00	NEP	1973.99	2172.01	16.57	NEP	334.32	266.40	252.99	2667.17	5378.88
30	Sikkim	11	6.06	NEP	NEP	108.22	NEP	45.55	NEP	117.71	NEP	51.64	6.06	323.12
31	Tamil Nadu	17	43.92	27.10	NEP	64.38	NEP	19.84	NEP	NEP	13.86	20.00	57.78	131.32
32	Telangana	33	161.38	NEP	1941.76	3.34	106.00	10.06	3951.57	2055.00	1978.32	1919.08	8139.02	3987.48
33	Tripura	13	23.07	3.23	NEP	469.53	NEP	28.22	NEP	84.01	1.00	15.36	24.07	600.35
34	Uttar Pradesh	8	67.30	998.37	NEP	690.28	NEP	340.10	NEP	76.33	167.18	922.64	234.48	3027.73
35	Uttarakhand	293	365.06	278.75	827.07	2760.06	273.08	NEP	2273.95	NEP	768.53	606.66	4507.69	3645.46
36	West Bengal	13	1.56	NEP	NEP	NEP	47.49	249.74	NEP	38.20	NEP	56.06	49.06	344.00
Grand Total		3616	6080.94	16791.02	7450.45	17015.43	4717.32	6583.82	9489.33	17509.14	9504.32	30990.29	37242.36	88889.71

*NFL-Non Forest land

**DFL - Degraded Forest land

NEP - No eligible Proposal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was approved.