

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2888
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2022

Use of Degraded Forest Land

2888: SHRI PINAKI MISRA.

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are allowed to use degraded forest land twice the extent of forest land diverted for non-forest use, whereas State PSUs are asked to give equal extent of non-forest land against the required diverted forest land; and
- (b) if so, whether there is any proposal by the Government to treat both Central PSUs and State PSUs on equal footing for raising compensatory afforestation?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) & (b) Compensatory Afforestation is one of the most important conditions stipulated by the Central Government while approving proposals for non-forest use of forestland under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. It not only compensates loss in the forest cover and forest land but also ensures that minimum forest land is diverted for unavoidable site specific activities. As a special provision for Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), Compensatory Afforestation is allowed to be raised over degraded forest land double the extent of forest area diverted for non-forestry purposes under the Act.

Keeping in view the National Forest Policy, the NDC targets and the Sustainable Development Goals, the forest land diverted for non-forest purposes must be compensated by equivalent non-forest land. In view of 'land' being a State subject the state PSUs and private user agencies are normally required to provide equivalent non-forest land for Compensatory Afforestation.
