

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3807**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.03.2025

**Diversion of Forest Land for Commercial and Infrastructure Projects**

3807. DR. M K VISHNU PRASAD:

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

- (a) the data on the extent of forest land diverted for commercial and infrastructure projects in the country during the last three financial years, State-wise particularly district-wise in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) whether the Government acknowledges that rapid deforestation has exacerbated climate risks, water scarcity and biodiversity loss in the said State; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to curb illegal deforestation and ensure strict enforcement of environmental regulations?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (c) During the period from 2021-22 to 2023-24, the forest area measuring 59882.07 ha has been approved to be used for various non-forestry purposes including infrastructure projects under the provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The State/UT wise details of diverted forest land including that for Tamil Nadu is enclosed at **Annexure**. Further, the Central Government has launched an online portal namely PARIVESH for the purpose of submitting and processing proposals for non-forest use of forestland. The detail for each proposal on the portal is available in public domain at <https://parivesh.nic.in>

Various developmental projects do have ecological impact, however, the diversion of forest land is allowed with adequate mitigation measures including the raising of Compensatory Afforestation (CA) and payment of Net Present Value (NPV). The additional mitigation measures in the form of Soil and Moisture Conservation works, Catchment Area Plan and Wildlife Management plan etc. are also stipulated on case-to-case basis.

The protection and management of forest and tree resources is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration. There are legal frameworks for the protection and management of forest and tree resources which include, the Indian Forest Act 1927, and the State Forest Acts and Rules. The State Governments /UT Administrations take appropriate actions to protect forests and trees as per the provisions made under these Acts/ Rules. The details in this regard are maintained by the concerned State Government/ UT Administration.

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Annexure

Annexure referred to part (a) to (c) of the LSUQ No. 3807 dated 24.03.2025 regarding 'Diversion of Forest Land for Commercial and Infrastructure Projects' asked by Shri Dr. M K Vishnu Prasad

Category : All Categories		During the Period : 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2024
S. No.	STATE / UT	Area Approved (in Ha.)
1	Andaman and Nicobar	102.98
2	Andhra Pradesh	614.76
3	Arunachal Pradesh	4071.58
4	Assam	541.84
5	Bihar	623.43
6	Chandigarh	0.05
7	Chhattisgarh	3020.68
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu	40.53
9	Delhi	116.92
10	Goa	182.80
11	Gujarat	3725.95
12	Haryana	925.49
13	Himachal Pradesh	1320.78
14	Jammu and Kashmir	576.10
15	Jharkhand	2985.78
16	Karnataka	1148.29
17	Kerala	154.15
18	Madhya Pradesh	14157.02
19	Maharashtra	2416.71
20	Manipur	1516.45
21	Meghalaya	27.41
22	Mizoram	414.44
23	Odisha	7703.46
24	Punjab	1267.53
25	Rajasthan	3207.01
26	Sikkim	212.55
27	<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	<b>87.60</b>
28	Telangana	631.31
29	Tripura	538.93
30	Uttar Pradesh	5058.25
31	Uttarakhand	2005.17
32	West Bengal	486.11
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>59882.07</b>

Source : <https://parivesh.nic.in>