

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 183
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2025

Forest Clearances for Infrastructure and Industrial Projects

183. SHRI SUKHDEO BHAGAT

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

- (a) whether as per the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) in its 2023 State of India's Environment Report, forest clearances for infrastructure and Industrial Projects has increased by over 150 per cent from 2014 to 2023; and
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor despite Government's international commitments to increase forest cover under Paris Agreement?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (b) The process of approvals for diversion of forest land for various non-forestry purposes under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvarshan) Adhiniyam, 1980 is a continuous process. During the period from 2014-15 to 2023-24, the forest area measuring 173984.3 ha. has been approved to be used for various non-forestry purposes including infrastructure and industrial projects under the provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The category wise detail of diverted forest land is enclosed at **Annexure**.

The forestland is allowed to be used for non-forestry purposes in unavoidable circumstances 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.

Annexure referred to part (a) to (b) of the LSUQ No. 183 dated 21.07.2025 regarding 'Forest Clearances for Infrastructure and Industrial Projects ' asked by Shri Sukhdeo Bhagat

Category :- All State / UTs		During the Period: 01.04.2014 to 31.03.2024										
S. No.	Category	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	Grand Total
1	Canal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.89	6.88	3.02	2.70	18.50
2	Communication Post	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.54	6.54
3	Defence	1231.00	180.00	0.98	3636.83	4159.09	187.44	2601.08	421.94	261.26	2288.51	14968.14
4	Dispensary/Hospital	39.86	0.02	2.20	0.17	41.37	0.00	1.10	11.02	6.81	10.76	113.31
5	Drinking Water	6.04	69.54	28.00	21.06	17.37	234.92	513.78	63.46	144.36	183.69	1282.21
6	Encroachments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.25	0.00	0.00	8.38	0.00	9.63
7	Forest Village Conversion	0.00	966.20	0.00	929.04	285.70	0.00	210.00	298.27	394.80	166.00	3250.00
8	Hydel / Irrigation	2369.07	2282.29	3637.85	4170.11	5488.24	7447.55	2135.53	2007.30	2486.40	8113.96	40138.31
9	Industry	1.23	66.31	0.91	37.15	181.28	12.51	43.27	31.96	5.93	25.26	405.82
10	Mining / Quarrying	5839.45	3940.42	1762.49	4127.11	5485.27	3420.53	2396.21	3939.48	3573.97	5611.24	40096.17
11	Optical Fibre Cable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.73	91.47	121.67	94.41	48.96	65.40	437.63
12	Others	246.67	2210.91	369.54	1586.32	525.70	1276.89	1430.45	807.07	708.50	507.80	9669.85
13	Petrol Pump	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1884.98	1884.98
14	Pipeline	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.67	96.43	127.13	162.78	138.56	543.57
15	Power Sub Station	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.21	38.21
16	Power Transmission Line	2429.71	1193.86	293.93	816.99	974.01	1484.70	2281.76	2731.36	3072.02	1954.35	17232.69
17	Railway	653.06	382.96	76.22	1831.98	236.84	612.87	1049.79	1169.53	1700.60	284.78	7998.65
18	Rehabilitation	242.39	0.20	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	42.50	86.90	75.11	833.45	1580.55
19	Road	1576.29	2024.44	1289.34	2336.53	2087.34	2668.30	5297.73	4966.41	4603.30	3756.01	30605.69

20	School / Educational Institution	0.98	2.44	0.64	6.96	12.79	0.18	0.03	40.87	6.23	12.35	83.46
21	Solar Power	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	1.09	0.00	0.47	1.57
22	Sub Station	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.98	45.42	9.95	2.01	5.78	76.14
23	Telecommunication Line	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.59	0.59
24	Thermal	395.85	2037.55	0.00	114.36	10.70	46.51	38.10	0.00	0.00	0.95	2644.02
25	Village Electricity	0.00	0.00	0.49	2.20	35.78	11.92	3.19	374.10	117.42	6.03	551.13
26	Water / Rainwater Harvesting Structure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.11
27	Wind Power	147.34	85.11	73.33	10.76	30.00	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	346.84
Grand Total		15178.94	15442.25	7835.92	19627.56	19587.21	17528.69	18314.23	17189.14	17381.88	25898.48	173984.30