

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1508
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2015

Acquisition of Forest Land

1508. SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to State:

- (a) whether any forest land has been acquired for any major project by public sector or private sector during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and project-wise;
- (c) whether any relaxations were extended for the purpose; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

- (a) to (d) Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 *inter-alia* provides that notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force in a State, no State Government or other authority shall make, except with the prior approval of the Central Government, any order directing that any forest land or any portion thereof may be used for any non-forest purpose. Therefore, use of forest land for various development projects, including development projects in urban areas, requires prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. During last three years and current year, the Central Government has accorded approvals over 1,28,591 ha of forest land in 4,725 cases for public and private sector projects. State wise details of approvals granted by the Central Government for use of forest land for such activities is given at **Annexure-I**. Use of forest areas for such activities are approved by the Central Government under the Forest (conservation) Act, 1980 with adequate environmental safeguards and afforestation measures in lieu of forest land proposed to be utilized for developmental activities.

No specific relaxations have been extended by the Ministry for any major project by public sector or private sector. However, to streamline the process of the forest clearance, the Ministry has taken several initiatives which include web portal for online submission and monitoring the status of forest clearance proposals, GIS based decision support system to facilitate informed decisions on forest clearance proposals, delegation of powers to Regional Empowered Committees (RECs) constituted at each Regional Office to finally dispose of proposals involving diversion of 5 to 40 hectares of forest land (except the proposals relating to mining, regularization of encroachments and hydel projects) and all proposals involving diversion of forest land for linear projects irrespective of area of forest land involved, Notification of the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Rules, 2014, introduction of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2015 in the Parliament, etc.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred in reply to part (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question no. 1508 asked by Shri Jitendra Chaudhury regarding 'Acquisition of Forest Land' due for reply on 8.12.2015

State wise details of area approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 by the Central Government for various developmental activities during the last three years i.e. 2012 to 2014 and current year

S. No	STATE / UT	2012		2013		2014		2015		Total	
		No .of Cases	Area Diverted (Ha)	No. of Cases	Area Diverted (Ha)	No. of Cases	Area Diverted (Ha)	No. of Cases	Area Diverted (Ha)	No. of Cases	Area Diverted (Ha)
1	Andaman and Nicobar	2	9.49	12	26.10	3	3.96	0	0.00	17.00	39.55
2	Andhra Pradesh	27	1037.02	28	2747.56	12	3334.50	18	2947.35	85	10066.43
3	Arunachal Pradesh	19	776.73	12	4373.82	14	1355.65	11	4846.28	56	11352.48
4	Assam	2	179.15	13	436.88	1	235.00	1	29.86	17	880.89
5	Bihar	14	274.87	22	413.29	27	207.93	12	539.74	75	1435.83
6	Chandigarh	0	0.00	1	0.72	1	39.86	1	0.37	3	40.95
7	Chhattisgarh	13	4191.88	15	4184.48	18	3236.86	18	2452.23	64	14065.44
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0	0.00	3	0.11	4	1.53	0	0.00	7	1.64
9	Daman and Diu	0	0.00	0		0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
10	Delhi	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	3.15	2	20.00	5.00	23.15
11	Goa	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
12	Gujarat	24	691.50	14	678.74	48	582.58	74	776.66	160	2729.48
13	Haryana	428	570.30	348	815.53	259	254.33	253	407.83	1,288.00	2047.99
14	Himachal Pradesh	228	1656.96	138	1044.72	8	435.21	22	12.10.23	396	4347.12
15	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
16	Jharkhand	27	3965.99	31	4201.89	15	2989.59	11	349.61	84	11507.08
17	Karnataka	23	290.10	1	140.00	5	475.64	17	289.09	46	1194.83
18	Kerala	7	1.57	8	35.94	0	0.00	0	0.00	15	37.51

19	Lakshadweep	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
20	Madhya Pradesh	24	4964.24	35	3438.87	50	9830.39	56	5279.79	165	23513.29
21	Maharashtra	26	1790.15	17	1845.11	23	2380.18	18	712.94	84	6728.38
22	Manipur	1	4.80	2	730.82	4	1366.84	3	93.10	10.00	2195.56
23	Meghalaya	10	400.30	1	0.98	0	0.00	1	138.11	12	539.39
24	Mizoram	0	0.00	3	482.20	3	78.58	0	0.00	6	560.78
25	Nagaland	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	Orissa	18	1931.64	10	5463.20	50	4516.43	28	1828.84	106	13740.11
27	Pondicherry		0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
28	Punjab	278	550.00	262	759.16	176	480.21	226	151.85	942	1941.23
29	Rajasthan	34	323.96	33	3511.94	14	782.21	23	482.28	104	5100.38
30	Sikkim	0	0.00	1	143.49	1	0.40	5	30.49	7	174.38
31	Tamil Nadu	11	42.44	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	482.20	15	524.64
32	Telangana	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	13	2001.26	13	2001.26
33	Tripura	10	94.31	16	104.32	1	172.86	2	49.49	29	420.97
34	Uttar Pradesh	114	939.85	139	1426.87	21	835.33	42	370.49	316.00	3572.54
35	Uttarakhand	180	517.32	141	4655.70	15	2134.13	239	177.07	575	7484.22
36	West Bengal	2	14.06	11	54.49	7	134.12	3	121.24	23	323.91
TOTAL		1522	25218.63	1317	41716.92	783	35867.47	1103	25788.40	4,725	128591.41
