

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3890**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2015**

**Forest Land for Pilgrimage Centres**

3890. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any policy/guidelines for allotment of forest land for developing pilgrimage centres and providing facilities to the pilgrims and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has received proposals from various States for allotment of forest land for developing pilgrimage centres and creation of amenities to pilgrims including "Mohata Devsthan" in Maharashtra; and
- (c) if so, the details and the present status of these proposals, State-wise?

**ANSWER**

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

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

- (a) Use of forest land for non-forest purpose, including developing pilgrimage centres and providing facilities to the pilgrims, requires prior approval of Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FC Act). Proposals seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section 2 the FC Act for use of forest land for developing pilgrimage centres and providing facilities to the pilgrims are processed in accordance with the provisions of the FC Act and Rules and Guidelines framed thereunder. There is no separate policy/guideline for processing of such proposals.
- (b) &(c) During the last three years the Central Government received 26 proposals seeking prior approval under Section-2 of the FC Act for use of forest land for developing pilgrimage centres and providing facilities to the pilgrims. State-wise details along with present status of these proposals are **annexed**.

As far as developing pilgrimage centre and creation of amenities to pilgrims at "Mohata Devsthan" in Maharashtra is concerned, the Central Government received a proposal seeking prior approval under Section-2 of the FC Act for diversion of 4.96 hectares of Reserve Forest land in favour of the Chief Executive Officer, Shri Jagdamba Devi Public Trust, Mohate, Taluka Pathardi, District Ahmadnagar for renovation of Shri Jagadambadevi Temple. The Central Government vide letter dated 27.06.2006 accorded formal approval under Section-2 of the FC Act for diversion of 1.25 hectares of forest land.

Prior approval under Section-2 of the FC Act for diversion of the balance 3.71 hectares of forest land was not accorded. Subsequently, on 02.05.2008 Government of Maharashtra again submitted a proposal for diversion of the said 3.71 hectares of Reserve Forest land. Regional Office (Western Zone), Bhopal of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change vide letter dated 04.06.2008 rejected the said proposal.

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## ANNEXURE

**THE STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) AND (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3890 BY SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI REGARDING "FOREST LAND FOR PILGRIMAGE CENTRES" DUE FOR REPLY ON 22.12.2015**

**Details of proposals seeking prior approval under Section-2 of the FC Act for use of forest land for developing pilgrimage centres and providing facilities to the pilgrims received by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change during last three years**

Sl. No	State	Name of Proposals	Forest land involved (Ha.)	Current Status
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Diversion of forest land in favour of Sri Emandi Ramachandra Rao in Pothukonda RF of Visakhapatnam Division for development of Sree Bhuvaneshwari Devi Aaradhanapeetam	1.4800	Rejected on 28.10.2013
2.	Bihar	Diversion of 0.888 ha forest land for installation of Passenger Ropeway at Mandar Hills in Banka District of Bihar	0.888	Stage-I approval issued on 28.05.2015
3.	Bihar	Diversion of 1.2348 ha of forest land for construction of Aerial Ropeway System adjacent to the existing ropeway at Rajgir in Nalanda District of Bihar.	1.2348	Stage I approval issued on 01.01.2014
4.	Haryana	Diversion of 0.0047 ha of forest land to Cinematograph Auditorium along Sirsa-Ludesar-Bhadra Road km. 7.05., L/s, at Village Begu ( <i>Dera Sacha Sauda</i> ), under Forest Division and District Sirsa, Haryana.	0.0047	Information sought by Regional Office, Chandigarh vide letter dated 29.05.2015 is awaited
5.	Himachal Pradesh	Construction of Ratnari-Kainchi to Kot Kali Mandir - Arihala H.B.	0.5797	Approved on 11.06.2013

Sl. No	State	Name of Proposals	Forest land involved (Ha.)	Current Status
		Kufri via Punjali road.		
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Widening of Shakoli Koti Hanuman Mandir Road, Shimla	0.9851	Approved on 12.10.2015
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Diversion of 0.9873 hecatres of forest land in favour of I & PH Department for providing LIS to Tanbol, Zagatkhana in Tehsil Shri Naina Devi Ji, District Solan.	0.9873	Stage-I approval issued on 11.03.2015
8.	Karnataka	Diversion of 0.40 ha of forest land in favour the President, Anjuman-E-Islam, Iqbal Education Society, Haliyal in B1 No. 141, Haliyal village, Haliyal Range for the purpose of using as prayer ground and religious activities of the Muslim Community	0.400	Information sought by Regional Office, Bangalore is awaited from the State Government
9.	Kerala	Diversion of 0.0352 ha of forest land in favour of KSEB, Nilambur North Division, Malappuram District for drawing Electric line to Ramallur Mahasiva Temple	0.0352	Stage-I approval issued on 09.10.2014.
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Diversion of 4.00 hecatres of forest land in favour of Executive Engineer, Gramin Yantrik Seva Badvani for revival of Bhilatdev Mandir Nagalwadi	4.00	Stage-I approval issued on 23.07.2014
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Diversion of 1.734 hectares of forest land in favour of Shri Devi Ji Mandir Samiti Trust, Salkanpur for construction of Shri Devi Ji Temple	1.734	Stage-I approval issued on 12.01.2015
12.	Maharashtra	Diversion of 4.90 hecatres of forest land for execution of various works at Shri Kshetra	4.90	Under process for Stage-I approval

Sl. No	State	Name of Proposals	Forest land involved (Ha.)	Current Status
		Mahurhaf Tirthkshetra Vikas Yojana		
13.	Punjab	Diversions of 0.00634 ha. of forest land for approach road to Satsang Ghar Dera Beas on Ferozepur-Fazilka, under Forest Division Ferozepur.	0.0063	Proposal closed due to non-receipt of information from the State Govt.
14.	Punjab	Diversions of 0.0221 ha. of forest land for Approach road to Satsang Ghar Dera Biyas on Malut-Fazilka at Arniwala Km. 30-31 R/s, Tehsil & Forest Division Ferozepur & Distt. Fazilka,	0.0221	Proposal closed due to non-receipt of information from the State Govt.
15.	Punjab	Diversions of 0.0103 ha. of forest land for approach road to Satsang Ghar Dera Biyas on Abohar-Fazilka km 3-4, L/s, under Forest Division Ferozepur & Distt Fazilka	0.0103	Proposal closed due to non-receipt of information from the State Govt.
16.	Sikkim	Construction of Durga Shiv Rama Mandir in South District of Sikkim by Temi Durga Shiv Mandir Committee	0.254	Approved on 18.06.2014
17.	Tamil Nadu	Temple by Swayambhu Arulmigu Adi Parasakti Vazipattu Mandiram- extension proposal	0.60	Information sought from the State Govt. awaited.
18.	Uttar Pradesh	Diversions of 3.90 ha of forest land for widening and lighting of <i>Kachchi</i> Parikarma road in Goverdhan under the betterment of road for tourism development in Mathura	3.90	Approved on 08.10.2013
19.	Uttarakhand	Construction of Kasialekh Dhari Motor road Km-6 Bhumiemandir to Bunnasi Motor	0.1575	Approved on 08.10.2015

Sl. No	State	Name of Proposals	Forest land involved (Ha.)	Current Status
		road		
20.	Uttarakhand	Construction of Temple to Jagdambe (Pit Tit Devi) and Dharamshala	0.40	Approved on 23.07.2013
21.	Uttarakhand	Construction of Kamede Devi-Bhantola-Saikot Motor Road	1.05	Closed due to non receipt of requisite information from State Government.
22.	Uttarakhand	Construction of Two Lane Tunnel on <i>Daat ki</i> Devi Mandir NH 72A Kilometer 33 to 34	0.52	Approved on 04.02.2015
23.	Uttarakhand	Construction of Koteswar Mandir to Thakla of Divnai Kohina Motor road.	0.54	Essential details sought by Regional Office, Dehradun on 13.02.2013 are awaited from the State Government.
24.	Uttarakhand	Construction of Suri Devi Mandir to Rampur Motor road	0.675	Approved on 25.03.2015
25.	Uttarakhand	Construction of Ghangaria to Hemkund Sahib Ropeway	2.305	Stage-I approval issued on 09.03.2015
26.	Uttarakhand	Construction of Surkanda Devi Ropeway project	0.68	Approved on 24.07.2015

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