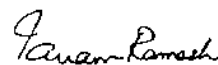


signal from you to your Forest Administration will be a first step and may have to be followed by relevant changes to the State laws and administrative regulations.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Jairam Ramesh)

Shri Prithiviraj Chavan

Chief Minister,
Government of Maharashtra,
Mumbai.

**Adverse effect of telecommunication towers
inside forest areas**

795. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the adverse effect of telecommunication towers inside forest areas on wildlife; and
- (b) the details of telecommunication towers presently operational inside Tiger Reserve, National Parks/Wildlife Sanctuaries and other protected areas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests had constituted an 'Expert Committee to study the possible impacts of communication towers on wildlife including Birds and Bees' on 30th August, 2010 under the chairmanship of Dr. Asad Rahmani, Director, Bombay Natural History Society. The Committee has submitted its report in September, 2011, which is being examined by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in consultation with concerned organizations.

(b) Information on details of telecommunication towers inside Tiger Reserves, National Parks/Wildlife Sanctuaries are not collated and compiled in the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Expansion of forest areas in the country

†796. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of forest areas in the country;
- (b) if so, the efforts being made to expand the same; and
- (c) the target fixed for the coming years?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.