

- (vii) The State/Union Territory Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around the Protected Areas.
- (viii) Strict vigil is maintained by the officials of State Departments of Forests and Wildlife.

The periodic assessments carried out in respect of prioritized species, rhinoceros and lion, have indicated improvement in their population status.

Tourism activities in core areas of Tiger Reserves

2348. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether tourism activities have been allowed in core areas of Tiger Reserves across the country after lifting of ban by Supreme Court; and
- (b) if so, the details of guidelines issued by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) A set of comprehensive guidelines has been issued under section 380-1(c) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for Project Tiger and Tourism in Tiger Reserves, which allows regulated tourism in core areas of Tiger Reserves. The guidelines are available in public domain at www.projecttiger.nic.in.

Schemes under Forest Conservation Act for Madhya Pradesh

†2349. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the schemes of the State Government of Madhya Pradesh under the Forest Conservation Act which are under consideration with the Central Government;
- (b) the steps taken by Central Government for their speedy clearance; and
- (c) the details of the action taken by the Government till date?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) Details of proposals seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land in Madhya Pradesh which are presently under consideration of the Central Government along with details of action taken by the Central Government on these proposals till date is given in Statement (*See below*).

The Central Government is taking action on these proposals as per the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003 and the guidelines issued under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Statement

Details of proposals

Details of proposals seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land in Madhya Pradesh which are presently under consideration of the Central Government (excluding the proposals in respect of which Central Government after examination of the proposals sought additional information/documents from the State Government) along with details of action taken by the Central Government on these proposals till date

Sl.No.	Details of Proposals	Action taken by the MoEF till date
1.	Diversion of 26.42 hectares of forest land in favour of Executive Engineer, Water Resources Division for construction of Sidhbaba Tank Project	Proposal has been examined by the State Advisory Group (SAG). The proposal along with recommendation of the SAG is under scrutiny in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF).
2.	Diversion of 268.39 hectares of forest land in favour of Water Resources Department for construction of Datuni Dam Irrigation Project in Dewas District of Madhya Pradesh.	The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) has recommended diversion of the forest land. The recommendation of the FAC is under consideration of the MoEF.
3.	Diversion of 57.49 hectares of forest land in favour of Water	Proposal is being placed before the FAC.

Sl.No.	Details of Proposals	Action taken by the MoEF till date
	Resources Department for construction of Bansujara Dam in Tikamgarh District of Madhya Pradesh.	
4.	Proposal for reconsideration of the decision of Central Government to decline permission under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 154.91 hectares of forest land in favour of Water Resources Department for construction of Runjh Medium Irrigation Project in Panna District, Madhya Pradesh.	Proposal is being placed before the FAC.
5.	Proposal seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for undertaking prospecting operations by M/s. S.P.J. Steel and Minerals Ltd. by drilling 46 bore holes of 4" dia. in 217.00 hectares of forest land located in Forest Compt. No. 307 in Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh.	The FAC has recommended grant of approval for prospecting activities. Recommendation of the FAC is under consideration of the MoEF.
6.	Diversion of 332.73 hectares of forest land in favour of M/s. SKS Ispat and Power Limited for coal mining in Rawanwara North Coal Block in Panch Kanhan Coalfield in Chhindwara district.	The Regional Office, Western Zone, Bhopal has been requested to inspect the forest land proposed to be diverted and submit a report to the MoEF.
7.	Diversion of 115.685 hectares of forest land in favour of M/s.	The Regional Office, Western Zone, Bhopal has inspected the forest land

Sl.No.	Details of Proposals	Action taken by the MoEF till date
	Pushp Steel and Mining Private limited for coal mining in Brahm-puri Coal Block in Pench Kanhan Coalfield in Chhindwara district.	proposed to be diverted and submitted a report to the MoEF. Proposal along with the site inspection report is being placed before the FAC.
8.	Diversion of 153.45412 hectares of forest land in favour of the National Highways Authority of India for rehabilitation and up-gradation to 4 lane configuration the Obaidullahganj-Betul Section of the NH-69.	The Regional Office, Western Zone, Bhopal has inspected the forest land proposed to be diverted and submitted a report to the MoEF. Proposal along with the site inspection report is being placed before the FAC.
9.	Diversion of 7.84 hectares of forest land in favour of M/s. Welspun Energy Limited, for construction of 1980 MW Electro Thermal Project in Katni district.	Proposal along with recommendation of the State Advisory Committee (SAG) are under scrutiny in the MoEF.
10.	Diversion of 110.811 hectares of forest land in favour of M/s. Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation Ltd. for under-ground coal mining in Shahdol district.	The FAC after examination of the proposal recommended that certain additional information be sought from the State Government. The proposal along with additional information received from the State Government is being placed before the FAC.

Exploitation of forests in hilly areas

2350. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forests of the entire country especially in the hilly areas are being indiscriminately exploited in the name of promoting tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;