

| 1     | 2             | 3   | 4   |
|-------|---------------|---|-----|
| 10.   | Punjab        | Satluj and Ghaggar  | 2   |
| 11.   | Tamil Nadu    | Adyar, Cooum, Cauvery, Noyyal, Vaigai, Tambiraparani, Bhavani and Palar   | 9   |
| 12.   | Uttar Pradesh | Yamuna, Hindon, Western Kali (partly covered), Kali Nadi (Eastern), Bagad, Ganga, Gomti, Ramganga, Saryu and Rihand | 12  |
| 13.   | Karnataka     | Bhadra, Tunga, Tungabhadra, Laxmantirtha, Kali, Krishna, Hundri, Kundu, Arkavati and Malprabha                      | 11  |
| 14.   | Manipur       | Nambul  | 1   |
| 15.   | Rajasthan     | Bandi, Berech, Jojari, Chambal and Khetri   | 5   |
| 16.   | Uttarakhand   | Kosi, Dhela & kichha and Bahalla  | 3   |
| 17.   | Jharkhand     | Subarnrekha and Sankh   | 2   |
| 18.   | Kerala        | Karamana, Puzhackal and Kadambayar  | 3   |
| 19.   | Tripura       | Agartala canal and Haora  | 2   |
| 20.   | Bihar         | Sikrana   | 1   |
| 21.   | Chhattisgarh  | Arpa, Seonath and Mahanadi  | 3   |
| 22.   | Meghalaya     | Kharkhala and Umtrew  | 2   |
| 23.   | Odisha        | Kathjodi, Brahmani, Mahanadi and Kuakhai  | 4   |
| 24.   | Puducherry    | Arasalar  | 1   |
| 25.   | West Bengal   | Damodar, Ganga and Barakar  | 3   |
| 26.   | Nagaland      | Dhansiri  | 1   |
| 27.   | Sikkim        | Dikchu, Teesta, Maney khola and Ranichu   | 4   |
| TOTAL |               |   | 150 |

#### Forest land used for public projects

1696. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of forest land which were used for Public Projects during the last three years;
- (b) whether Government has fixed any parameters which are to be taken into consideration for deciding the projects which will be in the interest of public at large; and
- (c) whether any comprehensive study was undertaken to ascertain the loss of forest cover after allotting the forest land for public projects, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The Central Government has not formulated any specific parameters for deciding the projects which will be in the interest of public at large. However, the Central Government while taking decision on proposals seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 have due regard to all or any of the following matters:

- (i) whether the forests land proposed to be used for non-forest purpose forms part of a nature reserve, national park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve or forms part of the habitat of any endangered or threatened species of flora and fauna or of an area lying severely eroded catchment;
- (ii) whether the use of any forest land is for agricultural purposes or for the rehabilitation of persons displaced from their residences by reason of any river valley or hydro-electric project;
- (iii) whether the State Government or the Union territory Administration, as the case may be, has certified that it has considered all other alternatives and that no other alternatives in the circumstances are feasible and that the required area is the minimum needed for the purpose;
- (iv) whether the State Government or the Union territory Administration, as the case may be, undertakes to provide at its cost for the acquisition of land of an equivalent area and afforestation thereof;
- (v) whether the per unit requirement of forest land is significantly higher than the national average for similar projects; and
- (vi) whether the State Government or the Union territory Administration, as the case may be, before making their recommendation has considered all issues having direct and indirect impact of the diversion of forest land on forest, wildlife and environment.

Since 1.06.2011 to 31.05.2014, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has granted approval for diversion of 87,252 ha of forest land for non-forestry purposes involving 3,772 proposals of various categories like roads, railway, defence, hydro power, thermal power, wind power, transmission line, mining, rehabilitation, schools, dispensary/hospitals, medical college, drinking water, irrigation, regularization of encroachments, petrol pumps, quarrying etc.

Further, the Central Government, with a view to boost development in the 117 numbers of Left Wing Extremism affected District has granted general approval for diversion of forest land upto 5 ha for activities like schools, dispensaries/hospitals, electrical and telecommunication lines, drinking water, water/rain water harvesting structures, minor irrigation canal, non conventional sources of energy, skill up gradation/vocational training center, power sub-stations, roads, communication posts, police establishments like police stations /outposts / border outposts / watch towers in sensitive area identified by ministry of home affairs); and underground laying of optical fibre cables, telephone lines & drinking water supply lines, quarrying and medical colleges, being implemented by the Government Departments which are of critical public utility in nature.

Also, the Central Government has agreed to accord general approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of not more than 1 ha of forest land, in each case, for creation of critical development and security related infrastructure like schools, dispensaries/hospitals, electrical and telecommunication lines, drinking water, water/rain water harvesting structures, minor irrigation canal, non conventional sources of energy, skill up gradation/vocational training center, power sub-stations, communication posts, construction/widening of roads including approach roads to roadside establishments, upgradation/strengthening/widening of existing bridges by BRO and police establishments like police stations/outposts/border outposts/watch towers in sensitive area identified by ministry of home affairs) lines.

(c) The Ministry, after examination of the proposal seeking diversion of forest land recommends need based project specific studies to assess the impact of project activity on the flora and fauna in the area proposed to be diverted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

#### **Definition of reserved forest area**

†1697. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that industrialization and developmental activities are not allowed in forest area classified as reserved area, if so, the details thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.