

responsibility, setting up of Producers' Responsibility Organizations, and e-waste Exchange, assigning specific responsibility to bulk consumers of electronic products for safe disposal, providing for economic incentives for collection of electronic waste, providing for logo-based identification of e-waste Rules compliant companies and providing for restriction on Government procurement of electronic products only from the companies who are compliant with e-waste Rules. Other measures include dedicated responsibility of electronic and electrical product manufacturers for collection and channelizing of electronic waste.

Diversion of forest land in urban areas

2752. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH:

SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY:

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

- (a) whether diversion of forest land for non-forest use in urban areas require prior approval of Government;
- (b) how many such proposals have been received from the entire country, State-wise in the last three years;
- (c) how many, out of those proposals, have been approved, how many rejected and how many are pending with Central Government;
- (d) what are the reasons for rejection and pendency of those proposals; and
- (e) whether there is any proposal for relaxation of provisions of forest (conservation) Act for urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (e) 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 1,24,133 ha. of forest land in 4,232 cases for such development activities including developmental activities in urban areas.

State wise details of approvals granted by the Central Government for use of forest land for such activities is given in the Statement (*See* below). Forest areas for such activities are approved by the Central Government under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (conservation) Act, 1980 with adequate environmental safeguards and afforestation measures in lieu of forest land proposed to be utilized for developmental activities. In general, private project proponents give equivalent non-forest land and it is transferred and mutated as forest land. During the last two years and current year an area of about 78,301 ha. has been prescribed for compensatory afforestation as part of environmental safeguards.

Grant of approval by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is a continuing process. Quite often, proposals or compliance of Stage-I approvals, received from the State/UT Government are not complete in all respects and hence the Central Government has to seek further details/ documents from the concerned State/UT Governments. Moreover, the proposals involving forest area of more than 100 ha. are also required to be inspected by the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry. These are the main reasons for delay in granting approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The Ministry takes prompt decision, when proposals complete in all respects, are submitted by the State/UT Governments.

Further, there is no proposal for relaxation of provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in urban areas. As per the provisions contained in the Guidelines issued under the Forest (Conservation) activities related to construction of residential and commercial buildings in forest areas are not considered by the Central Government.

Statement

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	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	2	9.49	12	26.10	3	3.96	0	0.00	17	39.55
2.	Andhra Pradesh	27	1037.02	28	2747.56	12	3334.50	10	1687.01	77	8806.09
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	19	776.73	12	4373.82	14	1355.65	7	4644.13	52	11150.33
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	7	536.28	70	1432.37
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	13	2142.51	59	13755.73
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	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	54	413.45	140	2366.27
13.	Haryana	428	570.30	348	815.53	259	254.33	159	234.86	1194	1875.02
14.	Himachal Pradesh	228	1656.96	138	1044.72	8	435.21	8	1090.51	382	4227.40
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	3	9.41	76	11166.87
17.	Karnataka	23	290.10	1	140.00	5	475.64	9	239.52	38	1145.26
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	42	4205.93	151	22439.43
21.	Maharashtra	26	1790.15	17	1845.11	23	2380.18	11	708.85	77	6724.29
22.	Manipur	1	4.80	2	730.82	4	1366.84	2	54.60	9	2157.06
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	0.00
26.	Odisha	18	1931.64	10	5463.20	50	4516.43	19	1441.56	97	13352.83
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	105	139.23	821	1928.61

Written Answers to

[13 August, 2015]

Unstarred Questions 131

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
29.	Rajasthan	34	323.96	33	3511.94	14	782.21	17	482.06	98	5100.17
30.	Sikkim	0	0.00	1	143.49	1	0.40	5	32.79	7	176.68
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	6	1941.17	6	1941.17
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	4	359.98	278	3562.03
35.	Uttarakhand	180	517.32	141	4655.70	15	2134.13	115	125.26	451	7432.41
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	610	21330.38	4232	124133.40