

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1472
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.03.2021

Usage of degraded forest land by Central PSUs

1472 SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are allowed to use degraded forest land twice the extent of forest land diverted for non-forest use whereas State PSUs are asked to give an equal extent of non-forest land against the required diverted forest land; and
- (b) if so, whether there is any proposal by Government to treat both Central PSUs and State PSUs on equal footing for raising compensatory afforestation?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) Compensatory Afforestation is one of the most important condition stipulated by the Central Government while approving proposals for non-forest use of forestland under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FCA, 1980). It not only compensates loss in the forest cover and forest land but also ensures that forest land is sought only for unavoidable site specific activities. As a special provision for Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), Compensatory Afforestation is allowed over degraded forest land double the extent of forest area approved for non-forestry purposes.

In view of 'land' being a State subject, and in view of National Forest Policy (NFP 1988) goal of having a minimum of one third of land area of the country to be brought under forest or tree cover, state PSUs and private user agencies are normally required to provide for equivalent non-forest land for Compensatory Afforestation. However, as a matter of pragmatism, revenue lands/zudpi jungle/chhote/bade jharka jungle/jungle-jhari land/civil-soyam/orange lands and all other such categories of forest lands not under management and/or administrative control of the State/UT Forest Department, on which the provisions of FC Act 1980 are applicable, shall be considered for the purpose of Compensatory Afforestation. Such forest lands, on which Compensatory Afforestation is proposed, shall be provided double in extent to the area proposed for diversion. Hence, at present there is no proposal from the Central Government to treat both Central PSUs and State PSUs on equal footing for raising compensatory afforestation.

- (b) There is no such proposal at present.
