

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UASTARRED QUESTION NO. 537
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2023

Forest land conversion for non-forestry use

537. SHRI G. C. CHANDRASHEKHAR:

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

- (a) the State-wise data on forest land conversion for non-forestry use in the last five years;
- (b) the total forest land converted for non-forestry use nationally in the last five years along with the purposes for acquisition;
- (c) whether an environmental impact assessment has been conducted for forest land conversion in each State over the last five years;
- (d) the list of activities for which forest land was acquired as categorized by States, during the last five years; and
- (e) whether the Ministry ensures compliance with environmental regulations and mitigate impact when approving forest land conversion?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) to (e) The proposals for diversion of forest land for various non-forestry purposes are dealt as per the provisions contained in the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and the rules/guidelines framed thereunder. The use of forest land for non-forestry purposes is allowed only when such uses are unavoidable and the forest area proposed for diversion is bare minimum. Whenever, the prior approval for diversion of forest land is accorded by the Central Government, the same is subject to appropriate mitigation measures which include the Compensatory Afforestation (CA), payment of Net Present Value (NPV), Soil and Moisture Conservation works, Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan and Wildlife Management plan etc. on case-to-case basis.

As per EIA notification, 2006, as amended from time to time, prior environmental clearance before the start of the project is required for Projects and/or activities or modernization of existing projects as listed in the Schedule appended to said Notification. Environment Impact Assessment studies are required in the process of obtaining Environmental Clearance for the projects listed in the schedule of EIA Notification 2006.

State-wise and category-wise details of the forest land diverted for non-forestry use during last five years is enclosed at **Annexure-I** and **Annexure-II** respectively.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to part (a) of the RSUQ No. 537 dated 07.12.2023 regarding 'Forest land conversion for non-forestry use ' asked by Shri G.C. Chandrashekhar		
Category : All Categories		During the Period : 01/04/2018 to 31/03/2023
S. No.	STATE / UT	Area Approved (in Ha.)
1	Andaman and Nicobar	100.00
2	Andhra Pradesh	1946.61
3	Arunachal Pradesh	7448.34
4	Assam	1357.17
5	Bihar	1852.75
6	Chandigarh	0.46
7	Chhattisgarh	2802.38
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	18.41
9	Daman and Diu	2.43
10	Delhi	85.05
11	Goa	280.83
12	Gujarat	8064.76
13	Haryana	2161.49
14	Himachal Pradesh	2512.65
15	Jammu and Kashmir	450.65
16	Jharkhand	4416.55
17	Karnataka	1585.45
18	Kerala	145.97
19	Madhya Pradesh	19730.36
20	Maharashtra	2137.89
21	Manipur	603.75
22	Meghalaya	33.97
23	Mizoram	392.89
24	Orissa	13304.79
25	Punjab	2391.57
26	Rajasthan	2972.12
27	Sikkim	124.87
28	Tamil Nadu	135.63
29	Telangana	3706.52
30	Tripura	1153.65
31	Uttar Pradesh	4090.64
32	Uttarakhand	3368.89
33	West Bengal	621.68
Grand Total		90001.15

Source : <https://parivesh.nic.in>

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to part (b) & (d) of the RSUQ No. 537 dated 07.12.2023 regarding 'Forest land conversion for non-forestry use ' asked by Shri G.C. Chandrashekhar		
Category : All Categories		During the Period : 01/04/2018 to 31/03/2023
S. No.	Category	Area Approved (in Ha.)
1	Approach Access	126.32
2	Borehole Prospecting	0.00
3	Canal	15.80
4	Defence	7630.81
5	Dispensary/Hospital	60.30
6	Drinking Water	973.89
7	Encroachments	9.63
8	Forest Village Conversion	1188.77
9	Hydel	6218.19
10	Industry	274.95
11	Irrigation	13346.82
12	Mining	18790.18
13	Optical Fibre Cable	372.24
14	Others	4748.61
15	Pipeline	405.01
16	Quarrying	25.28
17	Railway	4769.64
18	Rehabilitation	204.51
19	Road	19496.76
20	School	60.10
21	Solar Power	1.10
22	Sub Station	70.36
23	Thermal	95.32
24	Transmission Line	10543.86
25	Village Electricity	542.41
26	Wind Power	30.30
Grand Total		90001.15

Source : <https://parivesh.nic.in>