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MUMBAI THIRUVANANTHAPURAM KOLKATA HYDERABAD CHENNAI BANGALORE AIZAWL

Monday, November 29, 2010

**Ministry of Environment and Forests****APPROVAL FOR DIVERSION OF MORE THAN 8 LAKH HECTARE FOREST LAND FOR NON-FORESTRY PURPOSE**

16:08 IST

The Ministry of Environment and Forests accorded approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to 19,594 proposals for diversion of 8,79,557.10 hectare forest land for non-forestry purpose during last two decades. These diversions do involve felling of trees.

The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, is an Act to regulate diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes. It came into force on 25th day of October 1980. It has been enacted by the parliament to check indiscriminate diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes by various State/UT Governments without considering ecological and environmental concerns comprehensively.

The effective implementation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has successfully brought down the average annual rate of diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes from about 1.37 lakh hectare per annum during the thirty years period immediately before its enactment, to about 0.37 lakh hectare per annum during the same period i.e. thirty years, of its existence. The Government therefore, is not contemplating, as of now, to enact a new Forest Conservation Law.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Environment and Forests (independent charge) Shri Jairam Ramesh in a written reply to a question by Shri Prabhat Jha in Rajya Sabha today.

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