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MUMBAI THIRUVANANTHAPURAM KOLKATA HYDERABAD CHENNAI BANGALORE AIZAWL

Wednesday, December 02, 2009

Ministry of Environment and Forests**GENERAL APPROVAL FOR FOREST LAND FOR DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES**

12:11 IST

Lok Sabha

The Central Government has accorded a general approval for diversion of Forest land for undertaking developmental activities by the State Government Departments for the welfare of the people and involving up to 1 ha of forest land. For such public development schemes having up to 1.00 ha, no Compensatory Afforestation is required, as a specific measure in exception to the guidelines. In case of more than 1.00 ha of forest land required by the State Government/State Government Undertakings, Compensatory Afforestation is proposed on equivalent non-forest land, wherein, the non-forest land also includes revenue lands/ civil- soyam lands/ zudpi jungle/ chhote/ bade jhar ka jungle/jungle-jhari land and all other such categories of lands. Some of the State Governments have requested to exempt them from providing equivalent non-forest land and let them take up compensatory afforestation over degraded forest land developed in extend to the area being diverted as was being done in the proposals of Central Government Undertakings.

The present scheme has worked well and the rate of diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes has decreased from 1,43,000 ha to around 30,500 ha. The proposals received from the various State Governments have been examined and the Central Government has decided to continue with the present system of Compensatory Afforestation. Accordingly, no amendment in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has been proposed in this regard.

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 Sh. Wakchaure Bhausahab Rajaram in Lok Sabha today.

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