

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 201
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2025

Conversion of Forest Villages into Revenue Villages

201. DR. FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE

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

- (a) the number of forest villages identified in the country by the Government;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to convert such villages into revenue villages;
- (c) if so, the time by which these villages are likely to be converted into revenue villages; and
- (d) whether there is any action plan prepared by the Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) to (d) The prior approval of the Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 is required for the de-reservation/diversion of forest land for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages and for voluntary village relocation from various Protected Areas.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has issued guidelines under Para 12.8 and 12.9 of Chapter 12 of the Consolidated Guidelines and Clarifications dated 29.12.2023 for relocation of villages in accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in order dated 28th January, 2019, regarding relocation/rehabilitation of the villages from the core/critical tiger reserves and core of the Protected Areas (National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries) to the periphery of Reserved Forest/Sanctuaries/National Parks subject to certain conditions.

In this regard, the proposals received from the States/UTs are dealt as per the Rules and Guidelines made under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The details of such proposals submitted by the States/UTs are available in public domain on PARIVESH portal (www.parivesh.nic.in).

It is pertinent to mention here that the 'land' is a State subject. The forest areas and the legal boundaries thereof are determined and maintained by the concerned State/UT. That, inter-alia, being the repository of land records, State Government/UT Administration has the primary responsibility to maintain the detail of forest villages.