

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:115  
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2003  
DECLARATION OF FOREST VILLAGES AS REVENUE VILLAGES  
AVTAR SINGH BHADANA;CHARAN DAS MAHANT

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Union Government have received any proposals from various States to declare their forest villages as revenue villages;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government have given its approval/no objection under the Forest Conservation Act for all these forest villages;
- (d) if so, the number of forest villages declared/to be declared as revenue villages, State-wise; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 115 B CHARAN DAS MAHANT AND SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA REGARDING 'DECLARATION OF FOREST VILLAGES AS REVENUE VILLAGES' DUE FOR REPLY ON 28-07-2003.

(a) & (b) As per the provisions of the National Forest Policy, 1988, Central Government had issued guidelines in September, 1990, for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages. Central Government during 2002, have received 11 proposals for conversion of 316 forest villages into revenue villages in 11 Districts from Government of Madhya Pradesh, one proposal for 73 forest villages in Nandurbar District from Government of Maharashtra and 19 proposals for 421 forest villages in 14 Districts from Government of Chhattisgarh. During 1994, Government of Orissa had also submitted three such proposals for Sambalpur District. Recently, in June, 2003, Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted a fresh list of 925 forest villages in 27 Districts including 11 Districts proposed earlier, involving an area of 230239.69 hectares.

(c), (d) & (e) The Government have already approved conversion of 94 forest villages into revenue villages in five districts of Madhya Pradesh and 73 forest villages in Nandurbar District of Maharashtra. Regarding the proposals of Chhattisgarh information submitted by the State Government was incomplete and therefore, proposals have been returned to the State Government. In case of Orissa, the proposals were not in conformity with the guidelines, therefore, proposals have been closed. The recent proposal of Government of Madhya Pradesh involving 925 forest villages, is not in conformity with the guidelines issued by the Ministry for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages.