

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1046
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2003
CONVERSION OF FOREST LAND INTO NON-FOREST LAND
CHARAN DAS MAHANT;KAMAL NATH;SHYAMA SINGH

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

- (a) whether the Union Government have allowed certain State Governments to convert forest villages into revenue villages;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the forest land in the country is being illegally encroached upon and also converted for other purposes;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard;
- (e) whether any physical survey of the forest land have been conducted by the Union Government; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

- (a) Yes Sir.
- (b) Proposals have been received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh. So far the Central Government have allowed conversion of 94 forest villages into revenue villages in five districts of Madhya Pradesh and 73 forest villages in Nandurbar District of Maharashtra, as per the National Forest Policy, 1988 and the guidelines issued in September, 1990.
- (c) & (d) As reported by various State/Union Territory Governments, around 13.5 lakh hectare of forest land is under encroachment in the country. The Central Government have issued directions to all the State Governments on 3-5-2002 to evict all in-eligible encroachers from the forest lands in a time-bound manner.
- (e) & (f) Operational aspects of forest management are the responsibility of the various State / Union Territory Governments. Central Government does not conduct such physical survey suo motto. Central Government relies on the information submitted by various State Governments in this regard as and when required.