

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:120  
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002  
DIVERSION AND ENCROACHMENTS OF FOREST LAND  
RAMESH CHENNITHALA

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

- (a) whether any request from Kerala has been received to allow forest land use to Adivasis of the State;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government have noticed encroachments of forest land in Wynad district of Kerala; and
- (d) if so, the action taken to prevent the encroachments?

**Answer**

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) and (b) Government of Kerala submitted a proposal to this Ministry during the year 1999 for diversion of 8000 ha. of private forest vested in Government in various districts of Kerala for distribution to landless tribals. The proposal was not in the prescribed format and therefore the Government of Kerala was requested to submit the proposal in proper format.

This year, a proposal involving diversion of 12196.1829 ha. of forest land in Kasargode, Kannur, Wayanad, Palakkad, Malappuram and Kozhikode districts of Kerala for resettlement of tribals has been received from the Government of Kerala. The proposal was found lacking in compensatory afforestation scheme and, therefore returned to the State Government.

(c) and (d) Government of Kerala have informed that there were attempts of encroachment of forest land in Wayanad district during the months from March to June, 2002. Forest Department was on high vigil and most of the encroachments were summarily evicted. There were attempts to re-encroach the forest area as a protest against non-implementation of resettlement of landless tribals in Kerala. Thereafter settlement was arrived upon and it was agreed to withdraw the strike by the Adivasi people and vacate the forest land encroached by them. Withdrawal of the encroachers has been completed in most of the areas.