

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1588
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2004
TRANSFER OF FOREST LAND
Bisen Shri Gauri Shankar Chaturbhuj

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

- (a) the policy regarding transfer of forest land to State Governments and public undertakings for useful purposes;
- (b) whether the Government is contemplating to bring the right of transferring the forest land up to 40 hectares under jurisdiction of the concerned State Governments; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) The policy is that forest land should not be treated merely as a resource readily available for various projects and programmes but as a national asset which requires to be properly safeguarded for providing sustained benefits to the entire community. Diversion of forest land for any non-forest purpose should be subject to the most careful examination from the standpoint of social and environmental costs and benefits. Projects which involve such diversion should at least provide funds for regeneration, re-vegetation, compensatory afforestation, restoration and other environmental safeguards, in their investment budget. In accordance with this policy, Central Government examines and decides the proposals for non-forestry use of forest land of various user agencies including State Governments and Public Undertakings under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.