

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1680
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2005
AMENDMENT OF FOREST CONSERVATION ACT
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

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

- (a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to amend the Forest Conservation Act, in view of the naxalite activities in Kudremukh area ;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ;
- (c) the details of the schemes of Karnataka pending with the Government under Forest Conservation Act ;
- (d) the time by which these schemes are likely to be approved ;
- (e) the funds sanctioned, released and utilized for development/conservation of forest in Karnataka during the last three years; and
- (f) the steps being taken by the Government to activate afforestation programmes in the State ?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) In the meeting of the Co-ordination Centre, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, held on 04.12.2004 at New Delhi, the State Government of Karnataka raised the issue of dislocation of tribals from Kudremukh National Park in Malenadu Region and their rehabilitation. Subsequently, on 18.02.2005, the Ministry of Environment and Forests requested the State Government to send a detailed report on the issue. No report has been received from the State Government as yet.

(c)&(d) The Ministry receives proposals from the State/Union Territory Governments for use of forest land for non-forestry purposes for which prior approval of the Central Government is required under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The proposals are considered by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted under the Act before being put up to the competent authority for decision. This is a continuous process and hence, at any point of time, some proposals always remain under consideration of the Ministry. Presently, five proposals received from the Government of Karnataka are at different stages of processing in the Ministry. A statement showing the details of these proposals is enclosed as Annexure.

(e)&(f) The National Afforestation and Eco-development Board (NAEB) under the Ministry is implementing a National Afforestation Programme (NAP) on 100% central funding basis during the 10th Five Year Plan. This scheme is being implemented through the decentralized set-up of the Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) at the forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level. The Ministry also sanctions funds for protection and development of existing forests under Integrated Forest Protection Scheme (IFPS). Under the NAP Scheme, 43 FDA projects of Karnataka with a total of Rs. 110.42 crore have been sanctioned during the period from 2001-02 to 2005-06 (as on 30.11.2005). An amount of Rs. 70.60 crore has been released in respect of these projects so far. Under the Integrated Forest Protection Scheme

(IFPS), an amount of Rs. 3.94 crore has been sanctioned during the period from 2002-03 to 2004-05. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 2.21 crore has been released.