

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:627
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
ENCROACHMENT ON FOREST LAND
Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

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

- (a) whether forest land are being used for other purposes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is a need to amend the existing laws to prevent encroachment on forest land; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b) Yes sir. Forest land can be diverted for non-forestry use under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. About 11.59 lakh hectares of forest land has been diverted for 18,080 developmental projects upto 30th September, 2008.

(c) & (d) There are sufficient provisions under various Acts / Rules / Guidelines such as section-35 of the Indian Forest Act 1927, relevant sections of State Forest Acts, Guideline dated 18.9.90 under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to prevent encroachment on forest land.