



Ministry of Environment and Forests
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Press Release

In response to requests received from various state governments, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Planning Commission, the MoE&F has decided to permit state governments to clear projects of upto 5 hectares of forest land for critical public utility infrastructure projects in 60 left-wing extremist affected districts without reference to the Forest(Conservation)Act,1980. The present threshold limit for such diversion is 2 hectares and this is now being increased to 5 hectares across the board for:

1. Schools
2. Dispensaries/Hospitals
3. Electrical and Telecommunication Lines
4. Drinking Water
5. Water/Rain Water Harvesting Structures
6. Minor Irrigation Canal
7. Non-Conventional Sources of Energy
8. Skill up Gradation/Vocational Training Centre
9. Power Sub-stations
10. Rural roads
11. Communication posts;
12. Police establishments like Police stations/outposts/Border outposts/watch towers in sensitive area(identified by Ministry of Home Affairs;) and
13. Underground laying of optical fibre cables, telephone lines and drinking water supply lines

The state governments are being asked to submit six monthly reports containing details of the forest land diverted for the above mentioned projects. The list of 60 districts covered by this new dispensation is attached.


(Jairam Ramesh)

MOS(I/C) E&F

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List of 60 Left-wing extremism affected districts

Sl. No.	Name of the District	Sl. No	Name of the District
Andhra Pradesh		Madhya Pradesh	
1	Adilabad	1	Anuppur
2	Khammam *	2	Balaghat *
Bihar		3	Dindori
1	Arwal *	4	Mandla
2	Aurangabad *	5	Seoni
3	Gaya *	6	Shahdol
4	Jamui *	7	Sidhi
5	Jehanabad *	8	Umaria
6	Nawada	Maharashtra	
7	Rohtas *	1	Gadchiroli *
Chhattisgarh		2	Gondiya *
1	Bastar *	Orissa	
2	Bijapur *	1	Balangir
3	Dantewada *	2	Debagarh/Deogarh *
4	Jashpur	3	Gajapati *
5	Kanker *	4	Kalahandi
6	Kawardha	5	Kandhamal/Phulbani
7	Koriya	6	Kendujhar/Keonjhar
8	Narayanpur *	7	Koraput
9	Rajnandgaon *	8	Malkangiri *
10	Surguja *	9	Mayurbhanj
Jharkhand		10	Nabarangapur
1	Bokaro *	11	Nuapada
2	Chatra *	12	Rayagada *
3	Garhwa *	13	Sambalpur *
4	Gumla *	14	Sonapur
5	Hazaribag *	15	Sundargarh
6	Kodarma	Uttar Pradesh	
7	Latehar *	1	Sonbhadra *
8	Lohardaga *	West Bengal	
9	Pachim Singhbhum *	1	Paschim Medinipur *
10	Palamu *		
11	Purbi Singhbhum *		
12	Ram Garh *		
13	Saraikela		
14	Simdega		

* Original 35 LWE Districts identified by MHA