

(a) whether oil exploration will be taken up at Dakshin Gangotri in Antarctica;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some preliminary studies have been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, whether these indicate possibilities of commercial oil production in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Scientists of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) participated in the 3rd, 4th and 6th Scientific Expeditions to Dakshin Gangotri in Antarctica, to make a preliminary study of the existence, if any, of possible hydrocarbon accumulation in the region. The information so far collected from this area is insufficient to indicate the commercial viability of oil exploration in the area.

**Effects of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on Development of Mineral Resources**

1994. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the requests/proposals made by some

States with regard to the hardships being faced due to the enforcement of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 which has almost put a stop to development of mineral resources in the forest areas;

(b) whether Government are also contemplating to ask the mining lessees to plant equal number of trees elsewhere for the trees cut in the course of mining operations;

(c) the details of any such proposal received from the State Government of Orissa; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) State Governments have not brought to the notice of Government of India cases of hardship in development of mineral resources due to enforcement of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) As per the guidelines issued under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, compensatory afforestation over equivalent non forest land has to be done where any forest land is diverted for mining. Compensatory afforestation can be taken up on degraded forest land twice in extent of the area being diverted if non forest land is not available.

(c) and (d). The details of proposals for diversion of forest land for mining purposes in Orissa State are shown in the statement below.

## STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of the Proposal	Present Status
1	2	3
1.	Quartz mining in Koraput District.	Rejected for non-furnishing of information.
2.	Bauxite mining project by M/s Balco in Sambalpur and Bolangir districts.	Approved.
3.	Bauxite mining project by NALCO in Koraput district.	Approved.
4.	Lingraj Opencast coal mines in Dhenkanal district.	Approved.
5.	Kalinga opencast coal mines in Dhenkanal district.	Rejected for non-furnishing of information.
6.	Ananta opencast coal mines in Dhenkanal district.	Rejected for non-furnishing of information.
7.	Samaleshwari opencast coal mines in Sambalpur district.	Rejected for non-furnishing of information.
8.	Lakhanpur opencast coal mines in Sambalpur district.	Rejected for non-furnishing of information.

S.No.	Name of the Proposal	Present Status
1	2	3
9.	Lilari opencast coal mines in Sambalpur district.	Under consideration.
10.	Bharatpur opencast coal project in Dhenkanal district.	Rejected for non- furnishing of information.
11.	Cromite mining in Cuttack district.	Rejected for non- furnishing of information.