

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:33
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2000
IMPACT OF OPEN CAST MINING ON WILD LIFE
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Bank has ceased funding the open cast coal mining projects in India due to adverse impact of mining on wild life;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) the number of open cast coal mines of Coal India Limited funded by the World Bank during the last three years, State-wise;
- (d) whether any survey has been conducted regarding the effect of open cast mining on the wild life; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the impact of suspension of this aid on the mining sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI N.T.SHANMUGAM)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 33 F
ANSWER ON 21.11.2000

(a) : No, Sir.

(b) : Does not arise in view of reply to part (a).

(c) : Total number of open-cast coal mines funded by World Bank under Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project(CSRP)s 24 and under Coal Sector Environmental and Social Mitigation Project(CSESMP) is 25 including the 24 mines under CSR and one additional mine(Bisrampur).

State-wise distribution is as under:

Jharkhand : Three (K.D.Hesalong OCP, Parej East OCP and Rajrappa OCP)

Orissa : Six (Lakhanpur OCP, Samaleswari OCP, Ananta OCP, Bharatpur OCP, Belpahar OCP and Jagannath OCP)

M.P. : Five (Dhanpuri OCP, Dudhichua OCP, Nigahi OCP, Jayant OCP and Jhingurda OCP)

Chhattishgarh : Five (Bisrampur OCP, Dipika OCP, Kustumda OCP, Manikpur OCP, and Gevra OCP)

U.P. : One (Bina OCP)

Maharashtra : Five (Niljai OCP, Sasti OCP, Umrer OCP, Durgapur OCP and Padampur OCP)

(d) & (e): Yes, Sir. The World Bank engaged a Consultant to conduct a study with the following objectives:

(i) To assess in a historical perspective the possible adverse impacts upon Tiger and Elephant habitats, migration routes and populations by Bank funded mining operations in Bihar under the Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project(CSRP) ; and

(ii) In the event of adverse impacts ensuing from coal mining being confirmed, to outline a work programme for the development of a management plan in the light of needed mitigation measures to conserve Tiger and Elephant habitats and populations .

The consultant performed the study during March- November,2000 and submitted a draft report to the Bank. The executive summary of the draft report was made available to Coal India Limited(CIL).

Regarding this study the Bank recorded through its Aide Memoir as follows:

(i) The empirical evidence presented both in the report of the study and in the executive summary indicates that the major changes involving a critical reduction in forest cover, wild life habitats and migration routes took place long before the start of the Bank funded projects; and

(ii) Against this background , the Bank does not find it necessary to undertake any further activities related to this issue.

CIL endorsed the position of the Bank.

There will be no impact of the cancellation of uncommitted part of CSRP loan of the Bank on Coal India`s mining programme.