

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4350
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2002
DEGRADATION OF FORESTS
ANANTA NAYAK

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale degradation of Forests by the mining operation in Orissa particularly in the scheduled districts of the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;
- (c) whether the private public sector mining companies are not paying attention to restore the ecology of the areas;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Union Government to those Mine owners;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SUSHREE UMA BHARTI)

(a) to (g) No non forest activity including mining can take place in Forest areas without diversion of Forest land. The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) grants permission for diversion of forest land for mining under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. MOEF has informed that no such reports regarding large scale degradation of forests by mining operation in Orissa have been received by the Central Government. However, monitoring of mining activities approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is the responsibility of the State Government.