

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:118
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
DESTRUCTION OF FORESTS DUE TO MINING ACTIVITIES
ANANTA NAYAK

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

- (a) the details of the forest land lost due to mining activities in the country including Keonjhar district of Orissa during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) whether any compensatory forest projects have been launched by the mines owners in lieu of the forest land acquired by them;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken to maintain ecological balance in the event of destruction of forests due to mining activities?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a) During last three years, the Central Government has diverted 8063.044 hectare of forest lands for mining activities in the country. It includes 976.635 hectare forest lands diverted in respect of Keonjhar District of Orissa. The State-wise details are given in Annexure.

(b) The Central Government stipulates a condition of raising and maintaining the compensatory afforestation on equivalent non-forest land or on degraded forest land double in extent of the area diverted, with a view to maintain the forest cover/green cover in the country.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Besides raising compensatory afforestation, Central Government stipulates another condition of raising and maintaining a Safety Zone over equivalent degraded forest land and also raising and maintaining the plantation over an area one and half times in extent of the safety zone at the project cost, to mitigate and contain the ill-effects of mining on the surrounding environment. Therefore, the Central Government takes all necessary precautions to conserve forests, environment and the green cover while accords forestry clearance to mining proposals under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Concerned State Governments are responsible for implementation of all the conditions stipulated by the Central Government.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 118 BY ANANTA NAYAK REGARDING "DESTRUCTION OF FORESTS DUE TO MINING ACTIVITIES" DUE FOR REPLY ON 21-7-2003.

S.NO. STATE FOREST AREA DIVERTED FOR MINING(IN HECTARES) DURING LAST THREE YEARS

1	Assam	0.000
2	Arunachal Pr.	0.000
3	Andhra Pradesh	1786.56
4	A N Island	0.000
5	Bihar	8.700
6	Chandigarh	0.000
7	Chhattisgarh	926.739
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.000
9	Daman & Diu	0.000
10	Delhi	0.000
11	Goa	0.000
12	Gujarat	0.000
13	Haryana	0.000
14	Himachal Pradesh	359.405
15	Jharkhand	378.144
16	Karnataka	618.080
17	Kerala	10.452
18	Manipur	0.000
19	Meghalya	0.000
20	Madhya Pradesh	664.446
21	Mizoram	0.000
22	Maharashtra	1205.266
23	Nagaland	0.000
24	Punjab	0.000

25 Orissa	1465.338
26 Sikkim	0.000
27 Rajasthan	588.598
28 Tamil Nadu	11.840
29 Tripura	0.000
30 West Bengal	0.000
31 Uttar Pradesh	0.000
32 Uttaranchal	39.476
33 Jammu & Kashmir	0.000
34 Pondicherry	0.000
35 Lakshdweep	0.000

TOTAL 8063.044