

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4476
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005
CUTTING OF TREES BY PROJECT AUTHORITIES
Dubey Shri Chandra Shekhar

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

- (a) whether a power plant of 675 MW generation capacity was set up after the privatisation of Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO) and thousands of trees were cut down by the satellite company at the land where power plant was set up;
- (b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the details of complaints received and inquiry conducted in this regard, if any ?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (c) A complaint has been received in the Ministry regarding construction of 675 MW power plant on forest land by M/s Sterlite Industries, partner of BALCO in Korba District, Chhattisgarh. It has been stated in the complaint that the above power plant was being constructed on forest land by cutting about 7 thousand green trees and without seeking the clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests. The State Government was requested to conduct an inquiry into the matter. As per information received from the State Government, the land in question is revenue land and 422 trees have been cut without permission and action as per land revenue code has been initiated by the revenue department of the State.