

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2007
ACQUISITION OF FOREST LAND
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether the proposal regarding the approval of acquisition of 350 hectare Forest Land for expansion of the Hindustan Lalpeth underground coal mine project situated in Vekoli in Maharashtra has been pending with the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the reasons for such pendency;
- (c) whether any time limit has been set to give approval for the use of the said land taking into account the national loss being incurred due to closure of the said underground coal mine of Vekoli; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (d) A proposal for diversion of 216.25 hectares of forest land for coal mining by Hindustan Lalpeth Underground Colliery in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra has been received in the Ministry of Environment and Forests in November, 2006. The said proposal is to be placed before the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC), a Statutory Committee constituted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. However, the Forest Advisory Committee is under constitution.