

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:345  
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2008  
IRON ORE MINING ON FOREST LAND  
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Oram Shri Jual

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

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to allow the use of forest land for Iron-ore mining project;
- (b) if so, the number of such proposals pending with the Union Government in this regard, State-wise along with the norms prescribed for granting such clearance;
- (c) whether the Union Government has conducted any study to assess the adverse impact of Iron-ore mining projects on the forest land; and
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof and the steps taken by the Union Government to check the adverse impact on environment and forests due to mining of Iron-ore?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (THIRU S. REGUPATHY)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 345 BY SHRI JUAL ORAM & SHRI ANANDRAO V. ADSUL REGARDING "IRON-ORE MINING ON FOREST LAND" DUE FOR REPLY ON 16.04.2008.

(a) & (b) The Central Government accords approval for diversion of forest land for, inter-alia, extraction of iron-ore under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. At present, 29 proposals including those of prospecting of iron-ore in forest areas are pending with the Union Government involving about 9786 ha of forest land in seven states of the country. Details of these proposals are enclosed at annexure-I&II. Though the mining of minerals is an area specific activity, the diversion of minimum and unavoidable forest land for non-forestry purposes with appropriate Compensatory Afforestation is the guiding principle for considering approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(c) & (d) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for individual projects are invariably conducted to assess the adverse impact on environment and ecology of the project area, which are taken into consideration while according approval for such mining projects. However, no such comprehensive study to assess the adverse impact of iron-ore mining projects on the forest land in the country has been undertaken by the Union Government

**ANNEXURE-I**

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 345 by Shri Jual Oram and Shri Anandrao V. Adsul regarding `Iron Ore Mining on Forest land` due for reply on 16.04.2008.

State      No. of cases

Andhra Pradesh    2  
Chhattisgarh    6  
Goa                2  
Jharkhand        3  
Karnataka        3  
Orissa            11  
Tamil Nadu       2

TOTAL        29