

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3444
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2008
LEASING OF FOREST LAND FOR COAL MINING
Bhai Lal Shri

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to lease forest land to coal companies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and conditions of such lease;
- (c) whether coal companies are adhering to these prescribed terms and conditions;and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA)

(a); After getting clearances from Ministry of Environment & Forests, forest land is leased out to the coal companies by the Government.

(b): Government of India accords diversion of forest land on lease for coal mining subject to the fulfillment of the following broad conditions in general.

i) The compensatory afforestation shall be raised over degraded forest land double in extent to the forest land being diverted. The user agency shall transfer the cost of compensatory afforestation to the State Forest Department.

ii) The user agency shall create, fence and maintain a safety zone around the mining area. The user agency would deposit fund with the forest department for creation, protection and regeneration of safety zone area and would have to bear the cost of afforestation over one and a half time of the safety zone area in degraded forest elsewhere.

iii) Legal status of forest land shall remain unchanged.

iv) The State Government would charge Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest area diverted from the user agency as per the orders of the Hon`ble Supreme Court of India and the guidelines issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests.

v) Subsidence analysis report to be obtained by the user agency.

vi) The permission granted under Forest Conservation Act shall be coterminus with the mining lease granted under MMRD Act or any other relevant Act or for 20 years, whichever is less.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d): Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.