

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:344

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2010

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE TO COAL MINES

Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan ;Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to amend the rules for grant of environmental clearance given to coal mines in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the extent to which the environmental clearance to coal mines is likely to be expedited after these amendments?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) &(c) In view of response to (a) above, does not arise.

(d) The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 was amended on 01.12.2009. As per this amendment, coal mining projects with lease area of more than 150 hectares have been put into category 'A' and those between five hectares and 150 hectares are category 'B' projects requiring clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the State level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority respectively.