

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:183

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010

MINING IN FOREST LAND

Biswal Shri Hemanand ;Rani Killi Krupa

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

- (a) whether a large area of forest land in the country including Orissa has been given on lease for mining activities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it has come to the notice of the Union Government that some people are illegally operating in the forest areas of Orissa without valid mining lease;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the guilty persons;
- (e) whether the Union Government has conducted any assessment regarding the estimated loss of dense forest cover as a result of mining activities and its impact on environment ecology and inhabitants;
- (f) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (g) the remedial measures taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

THE STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF THE Lok SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 183 BY SHRI HEMANAND BISWAL and DR. KRUPARANI KILLI REGARDING "MINING IN FOREST LAND" DUE FOR REPLY ON 10.03.2010.

(a)to (g) About 1651 proposals involving 126,265.37 ha of forest land have been accorded approval for mining purposes under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 including 161 proposals involving 17,739.15 ha of forest land in Orissa.

2. The State Government have submitted a report on illicit mining activities on forest land without obtaining forest clearance and the list of those cases alongwith action taken and status is annexed as Annexure.

3. The impact of mining activities is duly considered at the time of granting approval/renewal of the mining lease under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act,1980 and, accordingly, appropriate mitigative measures are suggested for reducing the adverse impact of mining on ecology. The mitigative measures, in general, suggested are conservation of Safety Zones, implementation of concurrent reclamation as per Mining Plan approved by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), treatment of catchment area, stabilisation of over-burden through different vegetative and mechanical measures, soil conservation measure, measures for preventing choking of nala and local streams, compensatory afforestation insides and outside the mining lease areas on forest and non forest land, implementation of Regional Wildlife Management Plan and site specific Wildlife Conservation Plan and other rehabilitation measures. The environmental impact assessment is also undertaken for mining proposals under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act,1986 and is considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee on Mining before according environmental clearance. The compliance to these conditions area primarily monitored by the State Government. However Six Regional Offices of the Ministry also monitor these conditions on sample basis. These mitigative measures have resulted in conserving the forest in and around the mining lease areas and have also resulted in afforestation of the non forest land and/or enrichment of the degraded forest land.