

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6447

ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010

VIOLATION OF CONSERVATION ACT

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Bhoi Shri Sanjay;Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Pradhan Shri Amarnath;Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Tarai Shri Bibhu Prasad;Vijayan Shri A.K.S.;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

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

- (a) whether Vedanta Alumina Refinery is causing air and water pollution that threatens the health of people living in Langigarh in Orissa as reported by Amnesty International;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has conducted any inquiry on the report of Amnesty International;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard;
- (f) whether the Union Government has also received any other complaints such as grabbing of forest land, diversion of forest land without clearance etc. against Vedanta and its subsidiaries in Orissa and other parts of the country; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a)to(e) According to the Amnesty International, Vedanta Alumina Refinery was causing air and water pollution. The Expert Appraisal Committee, constituted by the Ministry of Environment & Forests for appraisal of industrial projects under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 is examining the matter after which appropriate action will be taken by the Ministry.

(f)& (g) No such complaint involving grabbing of the forest land by Vedanta and its subsidiaries has so far been received in the Ministry.