

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6500
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010
DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND
Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala

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

- (a) whether instances of diversion of forest land for mining and other projects by State Governments during the Eleventh Five Year Plan have come to the notice of the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) The action initiated by the Union Government against such State Governments?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) Under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 the State/UT Governments are not empowered to divert any forest land for the non-forest purposes including mining, and regularization of encroachments. So far, no such instance has come to the notice of the Union Government during the Eleventh Five Year Plan where the State Government has diverted any forest land.