

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:603  
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010  
VIOLATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL NORMS BY VEDANTA  
Satpathy Shri Tathagata

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

- (a) whether M/s. Vedanta has violated the forest and environment guidelines for its aluminium project in Orissa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken by the Government against Vedanta;
- (d) whether the Government has set up any expert group recently to study the violation by Vedanta for its mining project in the State;
- (e) if so, the terms of reference of the Group; and
- (f) the time by which the Group would submit its report?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The violations of following types have come to notice of the Central Government.

(i) Construction of approx. 50 m access road in the gramya jungle area which is part of the area applied for diversion under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, without waiting for issue of final approval from the Ministry of Environment & Forests in terms of the said Act.

(ii) Construction of an access road and conveyer belt in the non-forest area without waiting for final approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the portion of the access road and conveyer belt to be located in the forest land;

(c) Matter is being investigated to collect full details.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. The terms of reference of the Expert Committee are as follows:

(i) Investigation and Ascertainment of the status of implementation of Forest Rights Act 2006 in and around the proposed area of the project;

(ii) Investigation and likely physical and economic displacement due to the project, including the 'resource displacement' of forest users and the rehabilitation plan;

(iii) Investigation of likely impact on cultural and social lives of the Dongria Kondhs Primitive Tribe;

(iv) Investigation of potential impact on the biodiversity, wildlife and the ecology of the land; and

(v) The Committee shall be free to enquire or investigate any issue which the Committee members might feel necessary for the purpose of their Report. The committee is to submit its report within 30 calendar days of its constitution.