

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1701
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010
PERMISSION FOR URANIUM MINING
Tirkey Shri Manohar

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

- (a) whether permission has been given for Uranium mining in Balpakran National Sanctuary in South Garo Hill District, Meghalaya;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to reconsider the proposal of clearance of Uranium mining in the said area; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which clearance is likely to be given?

Answer

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

- (a) No, Sir.
- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) A proposal for exploratory drilling for Uranium in Rongcheng Plateau, Balpakram National Park, South Garo Hills District, Meghalaya was considered by the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife in its meeting held on 14th of May 2010, wherein it was decided not to permit the mining activity as Balpakram National Park is an ecological hot spot and home to rare and endangered species like Slow loris, Hoolock gibbons and Elephants and is also considered a sacred place for the indigenous Garo Community in Meghalaya.
- (d) There is no such proposal.
- (e) Does not arise.