

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4783  
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2010  
EXPLOITATION OF MINERAL WEALTH FROM FORESTS  
Sudhakaran Shri K.

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

- (a) whether there has been alarming level of exploitation of mineral wealth viz. coal, iron ore, copper, etc., from forests;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has evolved a sustainable policy on exploitation of mineral wealth from forests;
- (d) if so, the salient features of the policy; and
- (e) the time by which this policy is likely to be implemented?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has not received any information, so far, indicating alarming level of exploitation of mineral wealth from forests.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in place, which regulates diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes including exploitation of mineral wealth viz. coal, iron ore, copper, etc., from forests. While approving such diversion proposals, following specific mitigation measures are stipulated-

# Phased reclamation of mined area.

# Safety zone area, its afforestation and fencing.

# Afforestation on one and half times degraded forest land in lieu of the area used for safety zone.

# In case of underground mines, areas on surface to be fenced and afforested.