

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:295
ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010
NATIONAL PARKS AND SANCTUARIES
Jeyadural Shri S. R.

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

- (a) the details of national parks/sanctuaries in the country where the Government has allowed mining, State-wise;
- (b) whether rampant mining/over mining has endangered the lives of wild animals in these parks/sanctuaries; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 prohibits destruction of habitats of National Parks & Sanctuaries. In addition, Hon'ble Supreme Court has vide their order dated 4th August 2006, prohibited mining inside the National Parks & Wildlife Sanctuaries as well as within 1 Km from the boundaries of the National Parks & Wildlife Sanctuaries. As per information available in the Ministry of Environment & Forests, mining of diamond by the National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. has been allowed in Majhgawan village of Gangau Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh as per orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 13.8.2008. The said mine was in existence before the Sanctuary was notified.

(b) & (c) Indiscriminate mining causes habitat fragmentation and degradation, air and water pollution and displacement of animals and birds from their breeding grounds, which may adversely affect the lives of wild animals. Whenever required, the Central Government has been requesting the State/Union Territory Governments to strictly adhere to the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972, as well as to abide by the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court prohibiting mining both within and around 1Km from the National Parks & Sanctuaries