

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3528
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2010
FOREST CLEARANCE FOR IRON ORE
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

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

- (a) whether the State Governments have requested the Central Government for using forest land for iron ore projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of proposals lying pending with the Union Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Union Government has set up a Committee to consider the proposals of the States to allow them to use forest land for iron ore projects;
- (e) if so, the facts in this regard; and
- (f) the remedial measures taken by the Central Government to protect the forest land from unauthorized mining?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) 268 proposals seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for iron ore mining in 62,387.199 ha. forest land have been received by the Ministry of Environment & Forests from various State/ UT Governments since the enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. State/UT Government-wise breakup of these proposals is annexed.

(c) 42 proposals seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for iron ore mining in forest land are presently at various stages of processing in the Central Government. These 42 proposals include, the 25 proposals, where decision of the Central Government is pending due to non-receipt of the requisite information/documents from the concerned State Governments.

(d) & (e) The proposals seeking prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of more than 40 hectare forest land, in each case, including those for iron ore mining, are examined by the Forest Advisory Committee constituted by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Similarly, the proposals for diversion of more than 5 hectares but less than 40 hectare forest land, in each case, are examined by the State Advisory Group constituted in the concerned State.

(f) Strict enforcement of various laws by the concerned State/UT Governments goes a long way in protecting the forests from illegal mining. The Central Government, from time to time, keeps advising the State/UT Governments in this regard.