

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1612
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011
FOREST LAND FOR MINING ACTIVITIES
Mahato Shri Narahari;Roy Shri Nripendra Nath

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

- (a) whether the Government has leased the forest land for mining activities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the areas of forest land so leased out for mining alongwith the terms and conditions, State-wise;
- (c) whether mining agencies are following the terms and conditions satisfactorily;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) Under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 the Central Government accords prior approval for diversion of forest land non-forest purpose including mining activities. So far, about 1,34,307 ha. forest land has been diverted for mining activities. Keeping in view the specific nature of each mining project, the Central Government stipulates certain project specific conditions in addition to the standard terms and conditions, wherever required, in the interest of conservation, protection or development of forests, wildlife and environment to mitigate the specific adverse impact (s) likely to arise from such mining project on flora, fauna and environment etc. State-wise details of the forest land diverted for mining purpose along with the standard terms and conditions stipulated by the Central Government while according permission for its diversion is annexed.

(c) to (e) Primary responsibility to ensure compliance to the stipulated conditions lies with the State/ UT Governments concerned. However, the Regional Offices of the Ministry of Environment & Forests located at Chandigarh, Lucknow, Bhopal, Bangalore, Bhubaneswar and Shillong undertake periodic inspections of the mining projects located in the forest areas within their jurisdiction. So far, compliance to the stipulated conditions, by and large, has been found to be satisfactory.