

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1643  
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011  
LICENCES FOR IRON ORE RESERVES  
Biswal Shri Hemanand

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

- (a) whether the Government has issued licenses for iron ore reserves in the country particularly in Orissa in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the companies;
- (c) the details of procedure followed/adopted while granting such licences; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to further simplify the procedure for granting such licenses?

**Answer**

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

- (a) & (b) During the last one year the Ministry of Environment & Forests, accorded prior permission under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 2349.643 ha. forest land for iron ore mining. The details of such approvals including the names of companies is annexed.
- (c) & (d) The Central Government while according its prior permission for diversion of forest land for non -forest purposes, including for iron ore mining, follows the procedure stipulated in the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 2003 and the guidelines issued by it under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The procedure ensures optimal utilization of forest land. The Central Government, as of now, is not contemplating any change in the said procedure.