

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:367

ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009

IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES ON WILDLIFE AND FORESTS

Bavalia Shri Kuvarjibhai Mohanbhai;Laguri Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh

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

- (a) whether mining, industrial and developmental activities in forest area are endangering wildlife and forest reserves in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study to find out the adverse impact of these activities on wildlife and forests;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect wildlife, forest and ecology from such activities?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 367 REGARDING "IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES ON WILDLIFE AND FORESTS" BY SHRI YASHBANT N.S. LAGURI AND SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI M. BAVALIYA DUE FOR REPLY ON 29-07-2009.

(a) & (b) Any mining, industrial and developmental activity in or around forest areas has its impacts like loss of forests, disturbance to wildlife, habitat fragmentation and pollution. However, the Ministry of Environment & Forests grants clearance to such proposals only after rigorous scrutiny under the existing provisions of law including Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and incorporating necessary mitigatory measures and safeguards ensuring that such activities do not endanger forests & wildlife.

(c) & (d) Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) is mandatory for projects covered under the EIA notification 2006 by the project proponents, before consideration for granting clearance by the Ministry. Besides, the Ministry has also conducted studies for assessing the impacts of developmental activities on forests & wildlife in certain cases. The findings of such impact assessment /studies are considered in decision making and also in mitigation of adverse effects, if any.

(e) Important steps taken by the Government to protect wildlife, forests and ecology from the adverse impacts of developmental activities, inter alia, include the following:

1. Several important legislations have been enacted to protect and conserve environment including forests & wildlife such as, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
2. Detailed procedures and mechanisms have been laid down for appraising the proposals involving mining, industrial and developmental activities in or around forest areas and to ensure that such activities do not endanger forests & wildlife.
3. The Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 (amended from time to time) and the Coastal Zone Regulation Notification 1991 (amended from time to time,) have been issued for detailing the mechanisms for environmental clearance of developmental activities.
4. Forest Advisory Committee has been constituted under Section 3 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to consider proposals on diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes.
5. In the case of development activities to be carried out in Protected Areas, prior approval of the State Board for Wildlife, Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife and permission of Hon`ble Supreme Court is required.
6. The Government has also put in place a mechanism to monitor compliances of the conditions stipulated in environment /forest clearances accorded to different categories of projects through its six Regional offices located all over the country.

7. A network of Protected Areas has been established to conserve wildlife and their habitats. Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, 'Integrated Forest Protection', 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation of forests & wildlife.