

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1608  
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009  
BAN ON COAL MINING IN FOREST AREAS  
Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

**Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has decided to ban coal mining in dense forest area;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to categorise forests for granting coal mining in forest areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether any coal projects of Coal India Limited and its subsidiary are pending for want of environmental clearance during the last three years and in the current year;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reason therefor; and
- (g) the time by which the clearance is likely to be accorded to these projects?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL & MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION(SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) to (d): No, Sir. However, in a recent meeting held between Ministries of Coal and Environment & Forests, a proposal was mooted to identify "Go" and "No-Go" forest areas for coal mining to avoid any loss of time and money which may otherwise be incurred in exploration etc.

(e) to (g): 76 projects costing Rs.20 crores and above have been approved during the period between April, 2006 and June, 2009. Out of these 76 projects, Environmental clearance for 28 projects has been obtained from Ministry of Environment & Forests and for balance 48 projects, the process of getting environmental clearance is in progress.