

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4154  
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2011  
DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND  
Ray Shri Rudramadhab

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

- (a) whether the Government has rejected clearance of diversion of forest land for mining bauxite Kalahandi and Rayagada districts of Odisha;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the State Government of Odisha has sent the compliance report of the objections raised by the Government; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for early clearance of the said project ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

( a ) & ( b ) Central Government on 30th August 2010 rejected Stage-II approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of 660.749 ha. of forest land in favour of the Orissa Mining Corporation Limited (OMCL) for mining of Bauxite of Lanjigarh Bauxite Mines located in Kalahandi Rayagada districts of Odisha for the following reasons:

- (i) Violation of the rights of the tribal groups including the primitive tribal groups and the dalit population;
- (ii) Violations of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986; and
- (iii) Violation of the Forest (Conservation) , Act, 1980.

( c ) & ( d ) Government of Odisha in December 2010 requested the Ministry of Environment & Forests to re-consider its decision to reject stage-II approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for diversion of the said forest land. Meanwhile, OMCL filed a Writ Petition before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India against the decision of the Central Government to reject Stage-II approval for diversion of the said forest land. The matter is now therefore subjudice.