

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4278

ANSWERED ON:29.08.2011

PRESERVATION OF ECOLOGY

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

(a) whether the exploitation of minerals like iron-ore, coal and others has posed a grave threat to ecology by way of endangering wildlife and forest reserves in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has made any study regarding the impact of mining, industrial and other developmental activities on wildlife and forests;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/ being taken by the Government to preserve ecology?

**Answer**

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

(a) Exploitation of minerals like iron-ore, coal and others does adversely affect wildlife and forest reserves in country. However, to minimize adverse impacts of mining on environment and ecology, permission accorded by the Ministry of Environment & Forests under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for mining is subject to compliance of appropriate safeguards.

(b) to (d) Comprehensive study to assess impact of mining, industrial and other developmental activities on wildlife and forests reserves in the country has not been undertaken by the Ministry. However, to obtain the Environment Clearance under the EIA Notification, 2006 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, projects, including mining and industrial projects, covered in the Schedule to the EIA Notification 2006 are required to undertake Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study to assess impact of the project on biological aspects likely to be caused by the project. On the basis of the EIA study, the Ministry of Environment & Forests while according environment clearance stipulates appropriate mitigative measures to minimize adverse impacts of such project to preserve ecology.