

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5214

ANSWERED ON:05.09.2011

CLEARANCES TO MINING PROJECTS

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to ban on environmental clearances to mining projects without the mandatory forest clearances in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and
- (c) the extent to which it would benefit in protecting the forests and also the people from displacement?

Answer

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

(a)& (b): Ministry of Environment & Forests has issued an office memorandum dated 31.3.2011 regarding "consideration of projects for grant of environmental clearance under Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, which involve forestland – procedure to be followed" which inter-alia stipulates that the environmental clearance in respect of those mining projects which involve forestland will be granted only after the Stage-I forestry clearance for the forestland involved in the project has been obtained.

(c): The implementation of the office memorandum referred to in reply to parts (a) and (b) of the Question is expected to avoid stranded investments, prevent fait accompli situations from taking place and lead to better protection of forests.