

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:949  
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2011  
CLEARANCE OF MINING PROJECTS  
Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.

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

- (a) whether the Government has objected to clearances of eight mining projects proposed in Hasdeo-Arand forest region of Chhattisgarh in view of the fact that proposed area is very rich in species diversity and has a large number of trees;
- (b) if so, whether the Forest Advisory Committee had decided that the whole forest block be kept intact;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether some coal blocks have been allocated mining lease in the said area; and
- (e) if so, the reasons for allowing the mining lease in these blocks?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has received eight proposals for diversion of forest land for mining in the Hasdeo-Arand forest region of Chhattisgarh. The proposals for Forest clearances are considered by the Forest Advisory Committee which is a recommending body and the Ministry takes decision for approval of the projects on its merits. The coal blocks of Tara, Parsa and 'Parsa East and Kaenta Basan' have been granted in-principle approval while 'Chotiya I and II' coal block has been given final approval. The remaining four proposals pertaining to Pituria Gidhumuri, 'Nakiya I and II', Morga II and Madanpur South coal blocks were rejected.

(d) & (e) The Ministry of Environment and Forests only grants Forest and Environmental Clearances while allocation of mining leases is done by the Ministry of Coal in consultation with the concerned State/Union Territory Governments.