

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:699
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012
AREA UNDER 'NO-GO' POLICY
Khairi Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao

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

- (a) whether a large extent of area in coal region falls under the 'No-Go' policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the forest areas falling under the coal regions?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) To facilitate objective, informed and transparent decision on diversion of forest land for coal mining projects, Ministry of Environment & Forests on suggestion from the Ministry of Coal jointly undertook study in nine major coalfields, namely Talcher, IB Valley, Mandiraigarh, Sohagpur, Wardha, Singrauli, North Karanpura, West Bokaro and Hasdeo to classify coal blocks located in these coalfields into following two categories:

- (a) Unfragmented forest landscapes having gross forest cover (GFC) more than 30 % and weighted forest cover (WFC) more than 10 %, named as category-A or 'No Go Area'.
- (b) Fragmented forest landscapes having GFC less than 30 % and WFC less than 10 %, named as category-B or 'Go Area'.

Details of the extent of area covered under the said study and the area classified as 'Go'/'No Go' is annexed.

(c) To mitigate impacts of diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes, including for coal mining projects, on the forests, the Central Government while according approvals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 stipulates appropriate conditions, such as, creation and maintenance of compensatory afforestation, implementation of wildlife conservation plan and realization of Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land etc. from the user agency for conservation, protection and development of forests etc.