

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:792

ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012

DIVERSION OF FOREST LAND

Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan ;Pathak Shri Harin

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

- (a) whether the large area of forest land has been diverted for mining purposes resulting in ecological imbalance in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of forest land diverted for mining purposes in the country during the last three years and the current year; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to stop diversion of forest land for mining purposes in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Central Government during the last three years and the current year (i.e. with effect from 01.01.2009 to 15.03.2012) accorded 296 approvals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 34,747 hectares of forest land for mining projects.

To mitigate impacts of diversion of forest land for mining projects on ecology and environment, 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 from the user agency for conservation, protection and development of forests and wildlife.

(c) To facilitate scrutiny of the proposals seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in an effective manner, an elaborate institutional mechanism, both at the Central as well as State/ Union Territory Governments level has been set up. The proposals seeking diversion of forest land for mining projects are examined most carefully and only those proposals where diversion of forest land is bare minimum and unavoidable are accepted by the Central Government.