

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:806
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012
FOREST LAND FOR MINING ACTIVITIES
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a major chunk of areas of forest land in the country including Madhya Pradesh has been given on lease for the mining activities;
- (b) if, so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether in forest areas of Madhya Pradesh some people have been involved in illegal mining work;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the persons found guilty in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government has conducted any assessment about the estimated loss of the dense forest as a result of mining work and its effect on ecology and the inhabitants there;
- (f) if so, the results thereof; and
- (g) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Central Government as on 29.02.2012 accorded 1738 approvals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 1,43,871 hectares of forest land for mining projects. Approvals accorded under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for mining projects include 182 proposals involving diversion of 16,059 hectares of forest land in Madhya Pradesh.

(c) & (d) As per the information received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, details of incidents of illegal mining in forest land in Madhya Pradesh and action taken by the State Forest Department against the offenders are as below:

Sl. No.	Year	No. of incidents of illegal mining in forest	land	Number of offenders	Number of vehicles seized
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1	2009	1166	1049	196
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2	2010	1113	831	150
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3	2011	1164	849	168
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4	2012	138	102	27
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(upto February)

(e) to (g) Central Government has not undertaken a comprehensive study to assess loss of dense forest cover as a result of mining work and its effect on ecology and the inhabitants. However, the Central Government, while according approvals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the EIA Notification, 2006 to mining projects assess the impacts of such projects, inter-alia on ecology and inhabitants and stipulate appropriate mitigative measures, such as, creation and maintenance of compensatory afforestation, implementation of wildlife conservation plan, rehabilitation and resettlement of the project affected families, realization of Net Present Value (NPV) of the diverted forest land from the user agency etc.