

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6112  
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2012  
LAND RESERVED FOR FORESTS  
Argal Shri Ashok

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

- (a) whether the land reserved for forests are being allotted by the Government for mining purposes in the country;
- (b) if so, the total area of land allotted by the Government for mining purposes during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has notified the violation of norms while allotting the land;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Use of forest land for non-forest purposes for mining requires prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. State/ UT-wise details of the approvals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 accorded by the Central Government for diversion of forest land for mining projects during a period of last three years and current year (i.e. with effect from 01.01.2009 to 08.05.2012) is annexed. (c) to (e) Central Government has not notified the violation of norms while allotting the land. However, in some of the proposals seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for mining projects, activities undertaken in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are reported. Central Government while according approvals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in such cases stipulates appropriate penal measures such as realization of penal Net Present Value (NPV) and funds for creation and maintenance of penal compensatory afforestation etc. from the user agency.