GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7264
ANSWERED ON:21.05.2012
CLEARANCES FOR MINING
Singh Shri Ganesh

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

(a) whether the Government has taken a note that the land allotted to various companies for granting clearances for mining becomes barren after the work gets completed;

(b) if so, whether the Government has made any assessment of this type of land;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme to conserve the said type of land;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) Exploitation of minerals does adversely affect quality of land. However, to minimize adverse impacts of mining on quality of land, approvals accorded by the Ministry of Environment & Forests under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 stipulate appropriate safeguards to mitigate impact of mining including its adverse impacts on land quality.

(b) to (f) Comprehensive study to assess the area of land which has become barren due to mining has not been undertaken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. However, to obtain the environmental clearance, the projects including mining projects, covered in the Schedule to the EIA Notification 2006 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the concerned project proponents are required to undertake Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study to assess its impact on environment, including on the quality of land. Approvals accorded under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the mining projects stipulate that the mining shall be undertaken as per the mining plan, duly approved by the concerned competent authority, containing inter-alia the provisions for reclamation and rehabilitation of the mined over area.