

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7329
ANSWERED ON:21.05.2012
CLEARANCES TO MINING PROJECTS
Kurup Shri N.Peethambara

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

- (a) whether the one of the recommendations of the B.K. Chaturvedi Committee is that all mining projects should be considered on merit;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up a mechanism whereby coal mines falling in 'inviolable areas' would not be considered for green signals;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) &(b) A committee constituted under chairmanship of Shri B.K. Chaturvedi, Member (Energy), Planning Commission inter-alia recommended that the Forest Clearances for coal mining should be given based on procedures under the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 and rules made thereunder.

(c) to (e) A Group of Ministers constituted under Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Finance Minister to consider the environmental and developmental issues relating to coal mining and other developmental projects inter-alia recommended that all such forests which can never be regenerated to the desired quality should be protected and suggested that a committee comprising experts in the field can be constituted to identify such forests. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has therefore constituted a committee under Chairmanship of the Secretray, Environment and Forests to formulate objective parameters for identification, in an objective and unbiased manner, of pristine forest areas where any mining activity would lead to irreversible damage, and such other forest areas which need to be conserved and protected to meet the larger objective of the long term conservation of forests and wildlife resources in the country.