

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:578  
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2012  
IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT DUE TO MINING  
Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.;Jaiswal Dr. Sanjay

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

- (a) whether the Government has noticed the adverse impact of mining on environment and forests both inside and outside the coal mine areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to undertake comprehensive environmental and forest diversion impact assessment of all mines rather than for a single mining applicant due to multiplicity and concentration of coal mines in certain geographical regions of the country;
- (d) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; 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) to (f) In the absence of adequate preventive and mitigative measures, developmental projects including coal mining, can adversely impact environment. Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified the Environmental Impact Notification in 2006 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. It is mandatory under the notification to obtain prior environmental clearance for scheduled development projects including coal mining. The potential impacts are taken into consideration while evaluating a coal mining project before grant of environmental clearance. While undertaking environmental impact assessment of a coal mining project, the impact of other operating projects in the region is also appropriately taken into consideration. Certain mitigative measures such as dedicated coal evacuation system are prescribed for clusters of mines.