

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2489
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2012
NUMBER OF PROTECTED AREAS
Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) the total number of protected areas comprising National Park, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves approved by the Government in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to re-evaluate the parks and sanctuaries protected under Wildlife Protection Act, 1976;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the norms for 'No-Go' areas for commercial activities in the country;
- (e) whether the clearance for mining would be completely banned in and around of all National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) As per the information available in the Ministry as on 05.09.2011, there are 668 Protected Areas including 102 National Parks, 515 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 47 Conservation Reserves and 4 Community Reserves in the country.
- (b)&(c) Presently there is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.
- (d) Presently there is no provision of 'No-Go' areas for commercial activities in forest areas in the country. As such, the question of norms does not arise.
- (e) & (f) The provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 regulate commercial activities including activities involving removal, destruction, diversion, exploitation of wildlife and its habitat inside National Parks and Sanctuaries. Hon'ble Supreme Court has prohibited mining activities both inside as well as within a safety zone of one kilometer from National Parks and Sanctuaries vide its order dated 04/08/2006 in I.A. Nos. 1413, 1414, 1454 in I.A. No.1413, 1426, 1426, 1428, 1440, 1439, 1441, 1444-45, 1459 and 1460 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995.