

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3493

ANSWERED ON:03.09.2012

CONSERVATION OF BARREN LAND

Bundela Shri Jeetendra Singh;Naik Shri Shripad Yesso;Punia Shri P.L.

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

- (a) whether the lands gets barren after mining allotted to various companies in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to formulate any scheme to conserve this kind of land; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

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

(c) & (d) To obtain the environment 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 their 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 provisions for reclamation and rehabilitation of the mined over areas.