

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:514
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2012
IMPACT OF MINING ON ENVIRONMENT
Biswal Shri Hemanand

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to ascertain the impact of illegal mining on Environment, Wildlife and Forests in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) While the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) has not conducted any survey to ascertain the impact of illegal mining on environment, wildlife and forests in the country, it has put in place regulatory mechanism for the project proponents dealing with mining projects to obtain the environment, forests and/or wildlife clearance as may be required. The cases of environment clearance for mining projects are dealt with in line with the provisions under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2006, issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The mining projects involving forests lands are required to obtain approval under the Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980. Similarly, some mining projects may also need approval under the Wildlife Act 1972, as per the requirement.

Implementation of stipulated environment clearance conditions is monitored through the Regional Offices of MoEF. In the cases of non-compliance, the matter is followed up with the concerned project proponent, including issuance of show-cause notice followed by the directions under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.