

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2572  
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2012  
SETTING UP OF PLANT-NEAR SANCTUARY  
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra;Ramkishun Shri

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

- (a) whether the Standing Committee on National Board for Wildlife has given approval for setting up of 'Dead Burnt Magnesia Plant' near a sanctuary in Jammu which is home to many endangered species;
- (b) if so, whether any representations have been received regarding the area being environmentally fragile;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the details of remedial measures taken by the Government to protect the environment in the said area?

**Answer**

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

(a) The proposal involving extraction of 1240000 TPA High Grade Magnesite deposit at Chipprian Hills and setting up 30000 TPA of dead burnt Magnesia plant at village Panthal, Katra Reasi, falling within 10 kms from the boundary of Trikuta Wildlife Sanctuary, Jammu and Kashmir, was considered by the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife in its Meeting held on 14th October 2011 and was recommended with certain conditions.

(b) to (d) Two Public Interest Litigations (PIL), viz., WPPIL No. 02/2012 by Shri Rinku Sharma, Jammu versus Ministry of Environment and Forests & others and WPPIL No.03/2012 by Ms. Vilakshana Singh, Jammu and Shri Dewakar Sharma, Jammu versus Ministry of Environment and Forests and others have been filed before the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir at Jammu, inter alia, challenging the decision of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife and praying for issuance of a Writ of Certiorari quashing the decision of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife for extraction of 1240000 TPA High Grade Magnesite deposit at Chipprian Hills and setting up 30000 TPA of dead burnt Magnesia plant at village Panthal and also for denotification of the Trikuta Wildlife Sanctuary.

The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir, while hearing the two PIL's had, vide their order dated 10th July 2012, dismissed the two petitions indicating that the two petitions were pre-mature on all counts as the denotification of the Trikuta Sanctuary as well as the environmental clearance was subject to the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court and without waiting for such orders, the petitioners had filed the petitions.