

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1131

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2013

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCES TO MINING LEASES

Dhruvanarayana Shri R. ;Ponnam Shri Prabhakar

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

- (a) whether the Government has suspended environmental clearances to mining leases in some States of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise during the last three years and the current year and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a)to (c): The Ministry of Environment and Forests has set up six Regional Offices located at Bangalore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Lucknow and Shillong to inter-alia monitor the implementation of conditions and safeguards stipulated by the Ministry while granting environmental clearance to development projects under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Based on the observed non-compliances reported in the monitoring reports, follow-up action has been taken including issuance of show-cause notices and directions under section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Considering the defaulting nature of the mining units, during the year 2012, Ministry of Environment & Forests has suspended three environmental clearances of iron ore Mining Units located in the State of Goa, under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Further, the Ministry has also issued directions under section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, keeping in abeyance of environmental clearances of 139 iron ore mining cases in Goa during the year 2012, in respect of which various shortcomings have been mentioned in the Justice Shah Commission Report.