

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2273

ANSWERED ON:11.03.2013

FOREST CLEARANCE NORMS FOR PROJECTS

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Bhoi Shri Sanjay;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo

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

- (a) whether the Government has changed forest clearance norms for mining projects to make them simpler and discourage firms from acquiring excess land in the country;
- (b) if so, the details, thereof;
- (c) whether it would affect the balance of forest ecology in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (b) Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) vide letter dated 01.02.2013 informed the all State/ Union Territory Governments as below:

(i) Henceforth, in case of mining leases having forest land in part or in full, approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FC Act) for diversion of entire forest land located within the mining lease shall be obtained before execution/renewal of the lease under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. Applications seeking prior approval under FC Act for diversion of the entire forest land (and not a portion thereof) located within the area proposed to be assigned on lease shall only be accepted by the Nodal Officers in the concerned State/ Union Territory Governments.

(ii) All State/Union Territory Governments shall within a period of three months submit to the MoEF details of all such mines where approval under the FC Act for diversion of only a part of forest land has either been obtained or is presently under examination in the State/Central Government. The State Governments in all such cases shall request the concerned user agencies to submit application to obtain approval under the FC Act for diversion of the remaining forest land located within the mining lease. Mining in such leases after two years will be allowed only if the user agency either obtains approval under the FC Act for the entire forest land located within the mining lease or surrenders such forest land for which approval under FC Act has not been obtained and execute a revised mining lease for the reduced lease area.

(c) to (e) The said guidelines issued by the MoEF will ensure that only those forest areas for whose diversion prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been obtained is retained in the mining lease.