

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2299  
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2013  
PROVISION OF LAND TO PROJECTS  
Kora Shri Madhu

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

- (a) whether there are provisions for making equal area of land available for afforestation to Ministry in lieu of the land provided to lease holders for permitting non-forest works such as industrial and mining works in forest land;
- (b) if so, whether a number of private and public sector companies are undertaking industrial and mine works in Jharkhand;
- (c) if so, the details of forest land being used for non-forest works; and
- (d) the number of lease holding companies that has given lands to the Government for afforestation of other places in lieu of works undertaken in non-forest area in Jharkhand along with the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) The diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes including industrial and mining works is regulated in accordance with the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The guidelines issued under the Act require compensatory afforestation over non-forest land of equivalent area. The Ministry has granted exceptions to certain categories of projects to the effect that the compensatory afforestation can be taken up over degraded forest land double in extent to the forest land proposed for diversion. Certain other categories of projects have been exempted from compensatory afforestation. The former categories of projects includes projects undertaken by Central Government/ Central Government undertakings, extraction of minor minerals from riverbeds, construction of link roads, small waterworks, school buildings and hospitals etc. in hill districts, transmission lines upto 220 KV. The latter category includes proposals seeking diversion of forest land upto 1 ha and underground mining etc. These exceptions and exemptions are subject to certain conditions.

(b) & (c) The details of approvals granted for diversion of forest land for industrial and mining activities in the State of Jharkhand is as below:

Sl.No.	Category approved	No. of proposals (ha)	Area Diverted
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1	Hydro Electric projects	4	26
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2	Mining	141	17,222
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3	Thermal Power	6	1240
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4	Transmission Lines	115	3000
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Total	266	21488	
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(d) The provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 does not require lease holding companies to provide land for afforestation in lieu of works undertaken in non-forest area.