

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5356

ANSWERED ON:29.04.2013

CLEARANCE TO COAL BLOCKS IN NO GO AREAS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any measure for granting clearance to mining projects in 'No Go' Areas to avoid any harm to ecology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry has agreed to Coal Ministry on these suggestions;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) A Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted by the Cabinet Secretariat vide their O.M. dated 3rd February 2011 to consider the environmental and developmental issues relating to coal mining and other development projects inter-alia decided that concept of Go-No-Go for coal mining should be done away with and each of the proposals seeking diversion of forest land for coal mining be processed and considered by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) on its merits.

Accordingly, the MoEF on 30th August 2012 informed the concerned State Governments that they may process the proposals seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for coal mining projects in accordance with said decision of the GoM and send these proposals to the MoEF for its further necessary action to consider these proposals on case to case basis and on merit