

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1099
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2013
BAN ON CLEARANCE FOR MINING IN ESA
Ju Dev Shri Dilip Singh

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

- (a) whether the Environmentally Sensitive Area/Zones in the country including Jashpur district of Chhattisgarh State are often being invaded by miners destroying the natural environment and plantation by way of illegal mining;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to conserve the said areas?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) In the notified eco-sensitive zones under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, no such invasion by miners has come to the notice of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The Jashpur District of Chhattisgarh has not been notified as Eco Sensitive Zone by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(c) The steps taken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests to conserve the notified eco-sensitive zones include the following:

- i. Eco-Sensitive Zones are notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for certain identified areas and areas around National Parks and Sanctuaries. In these Notifications, provisions have been made to regulate / prohibit certain developmental activities.
- ii. For the purpose of effective management of Eco-Sensitive Zones, provision is made in the respective notifications for preparation of Zonal Master Plan for integrating environmental and ecological considerations.
- iii. In order to monitor compliance of the provisions of the notified Eco-Sensitive Zones, the notification provides for constitution of a Monitoring Committee
- iv. The Chairman / Member Secretary of the Monitoring Committee is empowered to file complaint under Section 19 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 against any person who contravenes the provisions of the Eco-Sensitive Zone Notification.