

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2229
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009
MINING ACTIVITIES IN FOREST LAND
Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has leased the forest land for mining activities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the total area of forest land so leased out for mining alongwith the terms and conditions, State-wise;
- (c) whether the mining agencies are following the terms and conditions satisfactorily; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) Under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the Union Government, on the request of the concerned State/UT Governments, has diverted forest land for lease allowing mining activities. Since the enactment of the Act, a total of 1309 cases have been approved under various categories of mining involving diversion of about 1,00,871 hectare of forest land. State-wise details are at Annexure-A. The Union Government, while according approval, does impose certain conditions to minimize adverse impact of mining activities on environment. These conditions comprise of general conditions like, Compensatory Afforestation, demarcation of the lease area on ground, environmental clearance etc, and standard conditions like, phased reclamation of the mined area, safety zone, Catchment Area Treatment Plan, strip plantation etc and specific conditions keeping in view the impact of the project. Additionally, the Union/State Government may impose any other condition in the interest of conservation, protection or development of forests, wildlife and environment.

(c) & (d) The Union Government accords approval to the diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes only after the compliance report indicating fulfillment of the stipulated conditions is received through the State Government. In general, the stipulated conditions are fulfilled by the User Agency. The monitoring of the compliance of stipulated conditions is primarily ensured by the concerned State/UT Government and the six Regional Offices of the Ministry. However, in case of violations of the stipulated conditions, the Act provides for penal actions against the offenders which, inter alia, include penal Compensatory Afforestation, additional Compensatory Afforestation etc.