

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4475

ANSWERED ON:21.04.2015

RESTORATION OF FOREST AREAS AFFECTED BY MINING

Chavan Shri Ashok Shankarrao;Gupta Shri Sudheer;Kirtikar Shri Gajanan Chandrakant;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh

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

- (a) whether the Government has worked out plans to restore forest areas destroyed by mining in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the total area affected, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the funds earmarked for the purpose;
- (d) the time schedule drawn to complete the restoration and reclamation of the entire area; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check any further loss to forest due to illegal mining in any part of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (e) Use of forest land for non-forest purpose, including mining, requires prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. State/Union territory-wise details of approvals accorded under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for mining projects is annexed.

Central Government while according prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for mining projects stipulates conditions to the effect that mining shall be undertaken in a phased manner and the forest land affected by the mining shall be reclaimed as per the concurrent and the final mine closure plan given in the Mining Plan duly approved by the concerned competent authority. Time schedule and estimated outlay for implementation of concurrent and final mine closure plan varies from case to case, based on the nature of activities provided in the approved Mining Plan.

State Forest Departments are responsible to prevent illegal mining in forest areas. Central Government under various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored schemes provides financial and technical support to strengthen and equip the State Forest Departments to ensure protection of forest areas from inter alia illegal mining.