

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2383

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2015

Mining in Forest

Mondal Shri Sunil Kumar

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

- (a) the details of norms and guidelines on mining in forest and eco-fragile areas in the country;
- (b) whether the Supreme Court has issued any directions in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government to check illegal mining in forests in the country?

Answer

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

(a) Mining in forest areas requires prior approval of Central Government in accordance with the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. It also requires Environmental Clearance in accordance with the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006. Similarly, mining in eco-sensitive areas notified under relevant provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 are governed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the respective notification issued to declare such area as Eco-Sensitive Zones.

(b) Supreme Court has directed that no mining activity shall be permitted within National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries and areas located within one kilometer distance from boundary of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

(c) States Governments are mainly responsible to prevent illegal mining in forest areas. Central Government under various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes provides financial and technical assistance to States and Union territories to strengthen the concerned agencies in the State Governments to effectively protect the forests from external pressures, including illegal mining.
