

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:908  
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2014  
GO AND NO-GO FOREST AREAS  
Mani Shri Jose K.

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

- (a) whether the Government has classified the forest lands into `go` and `no-go` areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether this classification has affected mining in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d) To facilitate objective decision on diversion of forest land for coal mining projects, Ministry of Environment & Forests on suggestion from the Ministry of Coal jointly undertook study in nine major coalfields, namely Talcher, IB Valley, Mandiraigarh, Sohagpur, Wardha, Singrauli, North Karanpura, West Bokaro and Hasdeo to classify coal blocks located in these coalfields into following two categories:

- (a) Unfragmented forest landscapes having gross forest cover (GFC) more than 30 % and weighted forest cover (WFC) more than 10 %, named as category-A or 'No Go Area'.
- (b) Fragmented forest landscapes having GFC less than 30 % and WFC less than 10 %, named as category-B or 'Go Area'.

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.