

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3463

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2017

Mining Activities in Forest Areas

Sathyabama Smt. V.

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

- (a) whether mining activities in the forest areas have severely affected the biodiversity of plant and animal life in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether environmental clearance has been given by the Government as per the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 before permitting mining activities in such forest areas including Karnataka;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to regulate mining activities in the forest areas of the country in order to ensure minimum damage/disturbance to the flora and fauna of the country?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Mining activities in forest area are likely to have adverse effect on the biodiversity of plant and animal life. Forest land diverted for site specific activity such as mine is done after due care and diligence by ensuring that trees and other ecosystem services loss is compensated by compensatory afforestation on equivalent non forest land/ double the degraded forest land and charging Net Present Value (NPV). Besides all mitigative measure to minimize the damage to flora and fauna is ensured by preparing and implementing Biodiversity Conservation Plan, site specific Wild Life Management Plan, Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan and Soil Conservation Plan wherever applicable. These plans are prepared to strike a balance between conservation of flora and fauna and development needs

(c) & (d): All environmental clearance given by the Government are as per the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, before permitting mining activities in such forest areas including Karanatak. All mining leases which have forest land involved are granted Environment clearance only after the approval of Stage-I Forest clearance.

(e) :The mining in the Forest area is regulated under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Rules made there under and Forest Clearance (FC) is granted to the mines. All mining activities are undertaken after obtaining Environmental Clearance(EC) under Environment (Protection) Act 1986 and Rules made thereunder. The Environment Clearance and Forest Clearance is granted after through analysis of the project proposal with specific and general safeguards and conditions imposed.
