

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4997
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2014
DESTRUCTION OF WILD LIFE HABITATS
Dubey Shri Nishikant

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

- (a) whether wild life habitats are being destroyed due to mining activities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the special efforts being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has any data on the endangered flora and fauna in the area adjoining the large mining projects in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) Due to mining activities in forests, some impact on the wildlife habitats is imminent. For taking decision on feasibility of mining and on precautions for minimizing and mitigating the impacts thereof, any proposal for mining activities within the forests are regulated under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, no forest area can be diverted by the State/Union Territory Governments for any non-forestry purposes including for mining without prior approval of Central Government. For examining such cases, a Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) has been constituted which examines the proposals and assists the Central Government in decision making.

Under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the decision regarding permitting mining from Environmental and Biodiversity damages angles are regulated by the Central Government and for this purpose, it is assisted by a Committee of Experts, called 'Expert Appraisal Committee' (EAC). In the case of Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks, notified under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the permission for any such activities can be given by the State Government only after consultation with the State Board for Wild Life and/or National Board for Wild Life respectively.

At present Hon'ble Supreme Court has prohibited mining activities within National Parks and Sanctuaries and up to 1 km. from the boundaries of National Park and Sanctuaries.

(d) and (e) The data on flora and fauna in areas within and adjoining the mining projects in the country are expected to be provided by the project proponents in their proposals to the competent authority for approvals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, as the case may be. The facts provided by the project proponents are verified through appropriate agencies and are considered by the respective expert groups assisting the competent authority for appropriate decision making.