

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5541
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2019

Mining Activities on Forest Land

5541. SHRI CHANDESHWAR PRASAD:

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

- (a) whether a large area of forest land has been given on lease for mining purposes in the country including Bihar and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that some people are undertaking illegal mining activities without legal mining lease in the forest area of Bihar and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken against the defaulters;
- (d) whether the Government has assessed the estimated destruction of thick forest area due to the mining activities and its effect on the environment ecology and its inhabitants;
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (f) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)**

- (a) On recommendation of concerned State Governments/ Union Territory administration, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) considers proposals for granting prior permissions for use of forest land for non-forestry purposes including mining. Depending on availability of mineral resources, Ministry grants such permissions which are considered on case to case basis. State wise details of forest area permitted for mining purposes in last three years is given at **Annexure-I**.
- (b) & (c) As per the information received from Government of Bihar there have been sporadic incidents of illegal mining in the State of Bihar, against which cases have been registered under Indian Forest Act, 1927 as per relevant provisions. The Department of Forest, Government of Bihar has been continuously taking action against the illegal miners in the forest area. The details of the prosecution

registered against illegal miners in the State of Bihar in last three years is as below.

Years	No. of Cases registered against illegal Mining
2018-2019	73
2017-2018	143
2016-2017	340
Total	556

- (d) & (e) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and State Government undertake Biodiversity assessment studies for assessing impact of mining on Forest and Ecology of concerned area on specific proposals for use of forest area for mining purposes. The recommendations in these studies are considered for taking appropriate decisions on such proposals.
- (f) Every State government has a well organised department with forest personnel to administer, manage and protect the forest land and resources as per their scientific, societal and administrative requirement. Further, to control and prevent illegal mining, following measures are also taken.
- i. Monitoring and assessment of extent of illegal activities with the use of Satellite Imageries.
 - ii. Deployment of well-equipped forest personnel.
 - iii. Coordinated efforts involving the line departments of the Government and concerned agencies, such as police, Civil Administration etc.
 - iv. Geographic information system (GIS) and mapping of the affected locations.
 - v. Implementation of appropriate provision under Indian Forest Act, 1927, State specific Forest Acts, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and rules and guidelines made there under.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred in the answer of part 'a' of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question no. 5541 by Shri Chandeshwar Prasad due for answer on 26.07.2019 regarding Mining Activities on Forest Land.

Statement Showing Cases (State wise and Financial Year wise) For Diversion of Forest Land in Last three years Under FC Act 1980									
Category : Mining		During the Period : 01/04/2016 to 31/03/19							
Case Status : APPROVED									
S. No.	States / UTs	2016-2017		2017-2018		2018-2019		Grand Total	
		Approved		Approved		Approved		Approved	
		No. of Cases	Area Diverted (in ha.)	No. of Cases	Area Diverted (in ha.)	No. of Cases	Area Diverted (in ha.)	No. of Cases	Area Diverted (in ha.)
1	Andhra Pradesh	4	14.98	4	16.68	4	14.53	12	46.19
2	Chhattisgarh	4	678.57	1	75.06	5	601.47	10	1355.09
3	Goa	0	0.00	1	17.31	0	0.00	1	17.31
4	Himachal Pradesh	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	2.18	1	2.18
5	Jharkhand	3	239.35	0	0.00	2	273.42	5	512.77
6	Karnataka	2	37.87	0	0.00	1	100.54	3	138.41
7	Madhya Pradesh	5	387.76	2	192.18	2	535.33	9	1115.27
8	Maharashtra	4	2.65	2	479.35	0	0.00	6	482.00
9	Meghalaya	1	4.82	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	4.82
10	Orissa	6	240.70	8	1755.22	11	3459.89	25	5455.81
11	Rajasthan	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
12	Telangana	0	0.00	4	1443.26	3	498.34	7	1941.60
13	Tripura	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
14	Uttarakhand	1	35.36	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	35.36
15	West Bengal	2	122.95	1	57.00	0	0.00	3	179.95
TOTAL		32	1765.00	23	4036.06	29	5485.70	84	11286.76