

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 21.12.2009
ANSWERED ON
SIMPLIFYING FOREST CONSERVATION RULES

3424

MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY

Will the Minister of COAL AND ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that mineral resources of Madhya Pradesh are not being exploited due to complicated provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and the rules made thereunder;
- (b) if so, whether Government is considering to simplify these provisions;
- (c) if so, by when; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to incorporate a provision in the Forest Conservation Act 1980 and the rules there under for according approval to projects within a period of six months?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d) The mineral resources of the country are exploited in the forest land with prior approval of the Central Government to the Mining proposals submitted by the State/UTs, under provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and rules made there under. These proposals are duly considered by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) constituted under Section-3 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. While tendering the advice, the committee may suggest any conditions/restrictions on the use of any forest land for any non forestry purposes, which in its opinion would minimize adverse environmental impact. The recommendation/advice of the Forest Advisory Committee is considered by the Government for granting approval with or without conditions or reject the same. The Central Government is required to take decision within sixty day of receipt of the recommendations. This process has been followed uniformly for all categories of proposals including mining proposals for all the State/UTs. The Central Government do not propose any change in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.