

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

RAJYA SABHA

QUESTION NO 21.12.2009

ANSWERED ON

CONSTRUCTION IN NON FOREST AREA BY VEDANTA RESOURCES .

3445

SHRI N.K. SINGH

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

(a) whether the Central Government has asked the Orissa Government to explain how the multinational Vedanta Resources was allowed to carry out constructions in non-forest areas in Kalahandi district;

(b) if so, the details of explanation given by the State Government;

(c) whether the said multinational company has violated the norms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and further action Government proposes to take in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d) The Central Government has accorded in principle approval under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on 11.12.2008 for diversion of 660.749 ha of forest land for mining of bauxite ore in Lanjigarh Bauxite mines in favour of Orissa Mining Corporation Limited (OMCL) in Kalahandi and Rayagada Districts in Orissa. However, the forest land will be handed over to the project proponent after receipt of compliance of conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval. On receipt of complaint regarding work on the forest land, the Central Government has got the site inspected by its officials of Regional Office, Bhubaneswar. It has been reported that no work has been carried out in the forest area. It is pertinent to mention that construction work on non-forest areas does not technically violate the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. However, these activities do not give them any right for clearance of the proposal under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.