

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 26.07.2010**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**CATEGORISATION OF COAL BEARING AREAS .**

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Shri D. Raja

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has categorized the Coal Bearing Areas according to which a major portion of Coal Bearing Areas of the Coal India Ltd. and of captive blocks have become “no-go” areas affecting the coal production and depriving Central and State exchequers of several thousand crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether PMO has asked the Ministry to review the categorisation of Coal Bearing Areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government’s reaction thereto?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Environment and Forests through Forest Survey of India (FSI) and the Ministry of Coal through Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited (CMPDI) have jointly undertaken an exercise to overlay the forest cover map on the coal block boundaries in respect of 9 coalfields in the country and identified various coal blocks as category ‘A’ (No-Go) and Category ‘B’ (Go). The exercise is still on. This exercise is being coordinated by the PMO. As per this exercise, 449 coal blocks covering about 3,80,000 ha have been categorized as category ‘B’ out of total number of 602 coal blocks covering about 6,48,750 ha. In addition, the Ministry of Coal is engaged in exercise requiring boundary alternation in 27 coal blocks (having area 82,540 ha) spread over 8 coal fields excluding Hasdeo-Arand which will ultimately result into addition of some more areas in the Category ‘B’.