

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3403
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2018

Clearance for Mining Projects

3403. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA

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

- (a) Whether Government takes wildlife parameters into consideration while approving mining projects;
- (b) Whether reports by Greenpeace and Forest Survey of India (FSI) have pointed out the adverse impact of mining activity on fresh water sources and bio-diversity; and
- (c) Whether breaking up of large forest blocks into smaller patches (fragmentation) have been referred to as one of the most serious threats to long-term Indian bio-diversity conservation?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) Concerns related to wildlife are duly factored in while granting environmental clearance to mining projects. The project proponent is required to submit wildlife conservation plan for the Schedule-I species to the concerned Chief Wildlife Warden at the time of appraisal of the proposal for grant of environment clearance.

In case Eco-Sensitive-Zone has been notified around the protected area, namely national park or wildlife sanctuary etc, guidelines relating to ESZ need to be followed.

In case Eco-Sensitive-Zone has not yet been notified around the protected area, then in pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court order in W.P. No. 202 of 1995(T.N.Godavarman Thirumulpad Vs. Union of India) dated 04.08.2006, no mining can be carried out within 1 km of protected area and permission of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) is required for carrying out mining from 1 km to 10 km from the boundary of protected area.

(b) The Forest Survey of India vide their LR No. 22-254/2017-NFDMC-1574 dated 19.03.2018 submitted that no such study was conducted and reported by Forest Survey of India.

(c) The Forest Survey of India vide their LR No. 22-254/2017-NFDMC-1574 dated 9.03.2018 submitted that the information on forest cover according to patch size class of the country, which is important to analyse the forest fragmentation has been reported from India State of Forest Report 2017. The information of Forest Cover on different patch size classes reported in ISFR 2017 is given in **Annexure-I**.

Annexure-I

National Level Forest Cover Information in different patch sizes

Sl. No.	Patch Size Range in (sq.km)	No. of Patches	Forest Cover	Percentage
1	>=0.01 <=1.0	7,27,380	54,082	7.64
2	>1.0 <=10	16,444	43,639	6.16
3	>10 <=100	2,183	58,052	8.20
4	>100 <=500	257	51,298	7.24
5	>500 <=1000	57	39,628	5.59
6	>1000 <=5000	42	85,407	12.06
7	>5000 <=10000	14	90,028	12.71
8	>10000	9	2,86,139	40.40
	Total	7,46,386	7,08,273	100