

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 51
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.01.2026

Ecological impact of mining and industrial projects in Odisha

51. DR. SASMIT PATRA:

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

- (a) whether Government has evaluated the ecological impact of mining and industrial projects in Rayagada, Koraput, Sundargarh and Mayurbhanj;
- (b) the district-wise details of environmental clearances, compensatory afforestation obligations and compliance reports; and
- (c) whether Government proposes stronger enforcement, monitoring and community participation frameworks to safeguard vulnerable tribal habitats in Odisha?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (c) All new Projects/Activities, including their expansion, modernisation, change in product mix etc. covered under the Schedule to the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, as amended require prior Environmental Clearances (EC). The process of grant of EC involves a four stage appraisal process, namely screening, scoping, public consultation and appraisal. Based on the scoping carried out by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC)/State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC), project-specific Terms of Reference are issued for preparation of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environment Management Plan (EMP) reports. These reports are prepared by accredited consultants on the basis of scientific studies, taking into account environmental sensitivities and are subsequently appraised by the EAC/SEAC. As part of the appraisal process, public hearing/ consultation is conducted to ensure participation of affected local persons, including the vulnerable tribal habitats if applicable, except in respect of projects exempted under the EIA Notification, 2006. Based on detailed appraisal, deliberations and the outcome of the public consultation process, the EAC/SEAC recommends projects for grant of EC with specific and standard conditions to safeguard the environment. The final EC is thereafter granted by the regulatory authority, viz. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) or the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), as the case may be.

In the last 2 years from 01.04.2024 till 31.12.2025, 109 mining projects and 06 Industrial projects have been granted EC by the MoEFCC and the SEIAA, Odisha as per the district wise details in **Annexure-I**. All these projects have undergone the rigorous appraisal process for grant of EC, as per the EIA, Notification, 2006, as amended.

In cases involving diversion of forest land, prior approval of the Central Government is required under the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Such proposals are examined on a case-to-case basis and, where diversion of forest land is unavoidable, it is permitted only subject to implementation of prescribed mitigation measures, including compensatory afforestation over identified land, payment of Net Present Value (NPV), soil and moisture conservation works, catchment area treatment plans and wildlife management plans. Between 01.04.2024 and 31.12.2025, a total of 33 Stage-II forest clearances were granted across Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Rayagada, and Sundargarh districts of Odisha, involving diversion of 696.72 ha of forest land for mining and industrial projects. Compensatory afforestation was stipulated over 584.87 ha of degraded forest land and 589.25 ha of non-forest land in the above-mentioned four districts. District wise details are given in **Annexure-II**.

To ensure compliance with the EC conditions and their monitoring, the project proponents are required to submit six-monthly compliance reports to the Regional Offices of the Ministry, State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs) and the concerned Pollution Control Boards with respect to stipulated EC conditions. Compliance of EC conditions are examined by the regulatory authorities to assess adherence to environmental safeguards, and appropriate follow-up action, including issuance of show-cause notices, directions for corrective measures or revocation of Environmental Clearance, is undertaken, as warranted, under the applicable environmental laws.

Further, the Ministry of Mines, in coordination with the State Governments, oversees compliance with mining laws and approved mining plans, while the State Pollution Control Board enforces standards relating to air, water and other environmental parameters through regular monitoring, inspections and regulatory actions, including grant of Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Annexure – I**Table 1: District-wise number of Industrial and Mining Projects granted with Environmental Clearance from 01.04.2024 till 31.12.2025.**

District	Industrial Projects	Mining Projects	Total Projects
Rayagada	02	29	31
Koraput	0	26	26
Sundargarh	04	22	26
Mayurbhanj	0	32	32
Total	06	109	115

Annexure – II

Table 2: District wise forest land diverted (in Ha) and compensatory afforestation stipulated for mining and industrial projects in Odisha from 01.04.2024 to 31.12.2025.

sS. No.	District	No. of Stage-II granted	Area Diverted (in Ha.)	Compensatory Afforestation Stipulated (in Ha.)	
				Degraded forest land	Non Forest land
1	Koraput	10	115.65	118.60	55.65
2	Mayurbhanj	4	59.75	8.70	63.64
3	Rayagada	1	38.06	22.00	38.50
4	Sundargarh	18	483.26	435.57	431.46
Grand Total		33	696.72	584.87	589.25