

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1214
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2017

Ecological Imbalance

1214. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that diversion of forest land for non forestry purposes including mining has caused ecological imbalance;
- (b) if so, the details of the forest land diverted for such purposes in the country during the last three years and the current year State/UT-wise including Jharkhand;
- (c) the extent to which ecological imbalance has deteriorated due to mining activities in the country; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to check diversion of forest land for mining purposes and restore ecological balance?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Yes, the details of the forest land diverted for non forestry purposes in the country during the last three years, State/UT wise including Jharkhand is annexed at Annexure 'A'.

Non forestry activities including mining have potential for impacting the environment and ecological balance. Deforestation for mining may inter alia lead to soil erosion and water pollution, impact flora and fauna etc. However sufficient care is taken to make good possible damage to forest, wildlife and forest-ecosystem while forest clearances are given for use of forest land for non forestry purposes as per provision of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

'Mitigative measures in the form of general, standard and specific conditions are mandated with every clearance granted.

General conditions inter-alia including raising the Compensatory Afforestation (CA), imposition of Net Present Value (NPV) to reduce the adverse impact of the diversion of forest land, demarcation of boundary of the diverted forest land, minimum tree felling, arrangement of alternate fuels, etc. are imposed.

Standard conditions specific to projects viz. mining are also stipulated in the approvals granted for diversion of forest land. Standard conditions inter-alia includes phase wise mining operations, management of safety zone, reclamation of quarry, conservation of topsoil, preparation and implementation of Catchment Area Treatment Plan, muck disposal plan. In addition to general and standard conditions, specific conditions are also stipulated in the approval based on the recommendation made by the Forest Advisory Committee.

ANNEXURE-A			
State-wise details of proposals accorded approvals under FC Act, 1980 for non-forestry purposes including mining for three last years			
Category : <u>All Categories</u>		During the Period: <u>2014 to 2017</u>	
S. No.	STATES / Uts	No. of Cases	Total Land Diverted (Ha.)
1	Andaman and Nicobar	8	24.19
2	Andhra Pradesh	28	3669.43
3	Arunachal Pradesh	28	1086.34
4	Bihar	75	658.93
5	Chandigarh	3	40.25
6	Chhattisgarh	38	5048.40
7	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	2	1.51
8	Delhi	4	15.15
9	Goa	5	41.59
10	Gujarat	98	1265.21
11	Haryana	796	7961.17
12	Himachal Pradesh	60	745.50
13	Jharkhand	23	3126.09
14	Karnataka	57	717.60
15	Kerala	5	26.61
16	Madhya Pradesh	98	8047.42
17	Maharashtra	40	6345.87
18	Manipur	10	776.90
19	Meghalaya	2	142.93
20	Mizoram	2	74.73
21	Orissa	69	6140.64
22	Punjab	566	912.40
23	Rajasthan	50	4392.66
24	Sikkim	16	83.72
25	Tamil Nadu	13	538.45

26	Telangana	20	7388.54
27	Tripura	11	94.58
28	Uttar Pradesh	9	609.87
29	Uttarakhand	91	2107.01
30	West Bengal	10	285.17
Total		2237	62368.87