

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 66
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2021

Environmental Clearance for Bauxite Mining

*66. SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to give environmental clearance for Bauxite mining at Serubandha Mines in Pottangi, Odisha;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of the protests by local tribals against the proposed expansion of Bauxite mining in Kodingamali (Koraput); and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to address the concerns of local tribals?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARAS (A) to (D) OF LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 66 DUE FOR REPLY ON 05.02.2021 REGARDING
“ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE FOR BAUXITE MINING” BY SHRI
SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:**

(a) & (b) There is a set process for granting the Environmental Clearance to the projects or activities as defined in EIA notification, 2006. The process includes four stages viz- a-viz(i) Screening, (ii) Scoping, (iii) Public Consultation, (iv) Appraisal;

As per the process defined in Environmental Impact Assessment(EIA) Notification, 2006 and its amendments, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has received two applications in Pottangi Tehsil in Odisha for grant of Terms of Reference for preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)andEnvironmental Management Plan (EMP)reports. Details are as follows:

(i) Pottangi Bauxite Mine with production capacity of 3.5Million Tons Per Annum (MTPA) by M/s National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), located at Pottangi Village, Pottangi Tehsil, Koraput District, Odisha from the mine lease area of 697.979 ha and Terms of Reference granted on 28th June, 2018.

(ii) Maliparbat Bauxite Mine, for Enhancement of Production of Bauxite From 0.6 MTPA to 0.9 MTPA from the Mine Lease Area: 268.110 Ha) at Aligaon-Kankaramba Village, Pottangi Tehsil, Koraput District, Odisha State by M/s Hindalco Industries Limited. The proposal has been recommended by the Expert Appraisal Committee for grant of Terms of Reference (ToR).

(c) & (d) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has received written objection by the “Kodingamali affected area people” not to hold Public Hearing. Accordingly, Ministry has sent a letter dated 11th January, 2021 to Member Secretary, Odisha State Pollution Control Board to take necessary action in the matter and intimate the action taken to the Ministry. Odisha State Pollution Control Board vide letter dated 01/02/2021 informed that Kodingamali Bauxite Mine of M/s. Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) Limited has proposed for expansion of production capacity from 3.0 Million Tons Per Annum (MTPA) to 6.0 MTPA in the mine lease area of 428.075 ha located in Koraput and Rayagada District, Odisha. Public hearing for the district of Koraput was scheduled to be held on 2/12/2020 which was postponed due to law and order situation.

It is pertinent to mention that public hearing is required to be carried out to ascertain the concerns of local affected persons. As per the provisions of EIA Notification 2006, after completion of the public consultation, the final EIA report, after addressing all material concerns expressed during the process, is required to be submitted by the applicant to the Ministry for appraisal.
