

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 36
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2026

Kente Extension Coal Block Project

*36. SMT. JYOTSNA CHARANDAS MAHANT:

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

- (a) whether the Government has granted approval to the diversion of 1742 hectares of forest land for the 'Kente Extension' coal block in the Hasdeo Arand field of Chhattisgarh recently, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the estimated number of trees likely to be cut due to the said project and its likely impact on the local biodiversity and elephant corridors;
- (c) whether the Government has received objections and proposals from local Gram Sabhas against this project; and
- (d) whether the said approval violates the unanimous resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly of Chhattisgarh in the year 2022 to prevent mining in Hasdeo?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 36 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2026 ON “KENTE EXTENSION COAL BLOCK PROJECT ” BY SMT. JYOTSNA CHARANDAS MAHANT:

- (a) The Central Government has not granted any prior approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 1742 hectares of forest land for the 'Kente Extension' coal block in the Hasdeo Arand field of Chhattisgarh.
- (b) A proposal was submitted by the State Government for diversion of 1742.60 ha of forest for Kente Extension Opencast Coal Mine, to the Ministry in the PARIVESH portal on 25.11.2025. The Ministry examined the proposal and sought further information from the State Government.
- (c) As per the information received from the Government of Chhattisgarh, so far no objections have been received from local Gram Sabha against this proposal.
- (d) The Central Government has not accorded any prior approval for diversion of forest land for the said proposal.
