

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COAL  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.363  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.02.2016**

**Activities Undertaken for Eco-Restoration**

**363. SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI**

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the activities for eco-restoration being undertaken by the companies associated with coal sector..
- (b) the areas in which eco- restoration activities have been successfully undertaken; and
- (c) the reasons where the model of eco-restoration has been found successful as well as the regions which are deprived of such model?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL,  
POWER AND NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

**(a):** Ecological restoration is the process of natural recovery of degraded ecosystems through ecological interventions. Eco Restoration work is done by technical reclamation of mined out areas and subsequent biological reclamation by plantation over it. Eco restoration is the further improvement after biological reclamation. It consists of 3-tier plantation by introducing native species. The lower most ground covers with grass, in the middle tier shrub and bush species and trees are in the upper tier.

**(b)&(c):** In Coal India Limited (CIL), Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) had undertaken a pilot project for ecological restoration of degraded and mined out lands of BCCL through Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun in July 2011 on an OB dump area over 8 ha in 2011. It was completed in July 2014. At the same time, another pilot project undertaken at about 7ha OB dump at Damoda Colliery under expert guidance of Prof. C. R. Babu, Project Director, Centre of excellence of MOEFCC, Centre for Environmental Management of Degraded Eco-systems (CEMDE), University of Delhi. Both the sites have shown excellent results to restore the greenery in the project site. Ecological restoration is a time taking process which can be achieved in a span of 5 - 10 years.

All other subsidiary companies of CIL are in the way of replicating the model of BCCL seeing its success story of Eco restoration. Gunjan Park in ECL, Ananya Vatika in SECL, Butterfly Park in NEC are some examples in other subsidiary companies where eco restoration activities have been successfully undertaken.