

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 26.07.2010
ANSWERED ON
FOREST LAND ON MINING LEASE .

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Smt. Viplove Thakur

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :-

(a) whether a large area of forest land in the country including Himachal Pradesh has been given on lease for mining activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware that some people are illegally operating in the forest areas of Himachal Pradesh without any valid mining lease;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the guilty;

(e) whether Government has conducted any assessment regarding loss of dense forest cover as a result of mining activities and its impact on environment, ecology and inhabitants;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof; and (g) the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)&(b)The Central Government has so far accorded approval to 1,677 proposals involving diversion of about 128, 789 ha of forest land for mining purposes in the Country including in the State of Himachal Pradesh. The State-wise details are given at Annexure.

(c)& (d)So far, no report regarding illegal mining operations in forest areas of Himachal Pradesh has been received in the Ministry.

(e) & (f) So far, no study have been conducted for assessment regarding loss of dense forest cover as a result of mining activities and its impact on environment, ecology and inhabitants.

(g)The mining in forest area is permitted stipulating certain general mitigative measures such as Compensatory Afforestation, phased reclamation of mined area, Safety zone with afforestation and fencing and other site specific measures to reduce the adverse impact of mining on environment, ecology and inhabitants.