

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:836
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2003
LEASE FOR MINING OPERATIONS
SANAT KUMAR MANDAL

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently given environment clearance to any mining company, both domestic and foreign, to carry on operations in the forest areas of the country including Chhatisgarh and Orissa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has received any proposals for environmental clearance particularly from Orissa and Chhatisgarh for such lease in their respective areas,
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the final decision taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

- (a) & (b) Environmental clearance was accorded to 3 mining projects in the country involving forestland during 2003, namely Bhubaneshwari Opencast Coal Mine Project of M/s Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. in Angul District, Orissa, Mandadi (Forest Block) Limestone Mining Project of M/s KCP Ltd. in Guntur District Andhra Pradesh and Opencast Bauxite Mine Project of M/s BALCO District Kawardha, Chhatisgarh.
- (c) & (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has, during the year 2003 received applications for environmental clearance for 15 mining projects from Chhatisgarh and 7 mining projects from Orissa involving forestland.
- (e) Final decision has not been taken by the Government in this regard.