

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1686
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2004
EFFECTS OF MINING ON FOREST COVER
Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu

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

- (a) whether individuals are allowed to indulge in mining activities in the forest areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of ill effects of such activities on forest areas; and
- (c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a) Yes Sir. Central Government grants forestry clearance to various State / UT Governments for diversion of forest lands for mining activities in favour of Central/State Public Sector Undertakings, Private Mining Industries as well as individuals under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- (b) In case the mining is done in an unregulated and unscientific manner without adequate mitigation/restoration measures, it may cause degradation of the area, lowering of ground water table, air pollution, water pollution, loss of flora and fauna, soil erosion etc.
- (c) To mitigate the ill-effects of the mining, while granting forestry clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Central Government ensures the submission of suitable plan for compensatory afforestation over non-forest land/degraded forest land double in extent as the case may be, plan for safety zone creation around the mining area, additional enrichment plantation over degraded forest land, Mine-Reclamation and Rehabilitation Plan, Over-burden Dump Stabilization Plan, Wildlife Management Plan in case of wildlife areas etc. by User Agency at the project cost. These plans are executed by the concerned State / UT Governments/User Agencies.