

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2618
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2006
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE TO VEDANTA ALUMINIUM
Satpathy Shri Tathagata

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

- (a) whether the Government has granted environmental and forestry clearances to the Vedanta Aluminium Company to extract aluminium at Niyamgiri hills of Orissa for its proposed Aluminium plant in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the basis on which the clearances have been given;
- (d) whether there have been certain objections against the grant of such clearances;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps proposed/taken by the Government to address these objections and grant the clearances?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) No Sir.

(d) to (f) In the site inspection report of the project area, carried out by the Eastern Regional Office, of this Ministry, it has been reported that the proposal is likely to have adverse impacts on biodiversity including wildlife and its habitat and also on hydro-geological characteristics. The matter is also sub-judice in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. As directed by the Hon'ble Court in its order dated 03.02.2006, in IA No. 1474 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995, the studies to assess the impact on biodiversity and wildlife and on hydro-geological characteristics including soil erosion were granted to Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited, Ranchi, respectively. In respect of environmental clearance, the requisite information has not been provided by the project authorities.