

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) State as owners of minerals grant mining leases. Lessees obtain clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Forest Conservation Rules, 1981 in case of forest land. The State-wise break up of the total area of forest land diverted for mining for which forest diversion approval has been given by MoEF during the period 25.10.1980 to 30.9.2008 is shown in the Statement (See below). The approvals accorded by the MoEF are subject to certain conditions to mitigate the local adverse impact on ecology and environment and include compensatory afforestation, safety zone and other protective measures, which are site specific and region specific and compliance is compulsory.

Statement

Details of total area of forest land leased out for mining

S. No.	Name of State	Total land diverted (in Ha.)	S. No.	Name of State	Forest Area (in Ha.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18,178.550	15.	Maharashtra	3,638.294
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	59.625	16.	Manipur	Nil
3.	Assam	152.201	17.	Meghalaya	Nil
4.	Bihar	418.174	18.	Mizoram	Nil
5.	Chhattisgarh	21,421.422	19.	Nagaland	Nil
6.	Goa	1,453.646	20.	Orissa	16,795.252
7.	Gujarat	9,866.408	21.	Punjab	0.002
8.	Haryana	Nil	22.	Rajasthan	5,188.031
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1,652.348	23.	Sikkim	0.046
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	Nil	24.	Tamil Nadu	359.216
11.	Jharkhand	9,501.255	25.	Tripura	8.278
12.	Karnataka	11,046.214	26.	Uttar Pradesh	2,006.440
13.	Kerala	29.196	27.	Uttarakhand	283.166
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11,970.084	28.	West Bengal	276.910

Iron ore deposits in Chiria Mines

235. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chiria Mines located in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand are endowed with huge iron ore reserves;

(b) if so, the capacity of Chiria Mines in respect of current iron ore reserves, mineable and probable; and

(c) what is the quality of Fe content, in terms of percentage, in Chiria Mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) As per available information the total economically mineable iron ore reserves in the Chiria mines in Jharkhand are estimated at 1974.45 million tonnes as on 1.4.2005, and the Fe content assessed in the various mining leases of M/s Steel Authority of India Ltd. in Chiria varied between 61.70% to 65.90%.

Illegal mining activities

236. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal mining at the mountains and hills in the country is at the peak these days;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such mining is rapidly increasing at Aravali, Shivalik, Himalayas, Vindhyachal, Satpura, Deccan Plateau and the Nilgiri mountains;

(c) if so, the details of the loss suffered by the inhabitants of these areas, including the cultivable land and forest areas destroyed; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government for the protection of the mountains and the inhabitants of the areas, and also the bonded labour working at the mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) Instances of illegal mining have come to the notice of the Central Government from time to time. The State Governments have been delegated power to frame Rules for prevention of illegal mining, transportation etc. under Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957. Central Government has asked State Governments to frame Rules under Section 23C of the MMDR Act, 1957 and constitute task force at State and District Levels having a nominee from Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office under the administrative control of Ministry of Mines. Central Government also monitors the instances of illegal mining, action taken by the State Government against such activities to curb illegal mining with the Secretaries of State Governments from time to time. State Governments have been asked to furnish quarterly returns in the prescribed proforma on instances of illegal mining and action taken to Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office under the administrative control of this Ministry. IBM has also been asked to undertake spot inspection of the area and furnish action taken report/comments to this Ministry.

Illegal mining in Haryana

237. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state: