

Coal mining in degraded forests

1683. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL :

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to allow coal mining in degraded forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is no category called 'degraded forests' in the Forest Survey of India; and

(d) if so, how Government proposes to identify degraded forests, for the purpose of giving approval for coal mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) So far, 254 proposals involving diversion of about 50,818 ha of forest land including degraded forests have been approved by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The State-wise details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The Forest Survey of India classifies forests into Very Dense Forest (all lands having tree cover with canopy density more than 70%), Moderately Dense (all lands having tree cover with canopy forest density between 40% and 70%), Open Forest (all lands having tree cover with canopy density between 10% and 40%), and Scrub (all forest lands with poor tree growth mainly of small or stunted trees having canopy density less than 10 percent). The last two categories, namely, Open, and Scrub having forest canopy density less than 40% are commonly categorized as degraded forests. These forest areas have been identified by the Forest Survey of India.

Statement

State-wise detail of Degraded Forests

Case Status: Approved + In Principle		As on: 16/07/2009
State/UT	Number of Proposals	Total Land Diverted (Ha.)
1	2	3
Andaman & Nicobar Island	0	0.00
Andhra Pradesh	43	12709.62
Arunachal Pradesh	2	43.57
Assam	0	0.00
Bihar	0	0.00
Chandigarh	0	0.00

1	2	3
Chhattisgarh	49	12579.12
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0	0.00
Daman & Diu	0	0.00
Delhi	0	0.00
Goa	0	0.00
Gujarat	0	0.00
Haryana	0	0.00
Himachal Pradesh	0	0.00
Jammu & Kashmir	0	0.00
Jharkhand	57	7545.33
Karnataka	0	0.00
Kerala	0	0.00
Lakshadweep	0	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	60	10980.37
Maharashtra	13	1815.09
Manipur	0	0.00
Meghalaya	0	0.00
Mizoram	0	0.00
Nagaland	0	0.00
Orissa	23	2899.99
Pondicherry	0	0.00
Punjab	0	0.00
Rajasthan	0	0.00
Sikkim	0	0.00
Tamil Nadu	0	0.00
Tripura	0	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	4	1984.83
Uttaranchal	0	0.00
West Bengal	3	260.03
TOTAL :	254	50817.949