

Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' of the Ministry for better protection and conservation of wildlife including improvement of habitat of wildlife.

2. A network of Protected Areas has been established to conserve wildlife and their habitats.
3. Financial assistance is provided for erection of solar power fencing/electric fencing, creation of barrier, trenches, etc.
4. Funding assistance is provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme to the State/Union Territory Governments for mitigation of human-animal conflict.

Pollution due to over exploitation in mining industry

†684. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that due to over exploitation in mining industry in the country, the environment is being affected;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) whether environmental pollution can be reduced by restricting mining industry to meet the needs of the country only; and
- (d) if so, Governments reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Various reports have appeared in the media from time to time regarding adverse environmental impacts of mining in different regions of the country.

(b) Ministry of Environment and Forests has imposed a temporary moratorium on consideration of projects for environmental clearance in those areas which have been identified as critically polluted based on study undertaken by the Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi along with the Central Pollution Control Board. In addition, Ministry of Environment and Forests has also imposed a moratorium on consideration of mining projects in the State of Goa till the mining policy of the State has been finalized.

(c) and (d) With a view to minimize the environmental impacts due to development projects, Ministry of Environment and Forests has brought out EIA Notification, 2006, which requires mining projects to obtain prior environmental clearance thereby integrating environmental safeguards in the project cycle. Additionally, other policy initiatives as mentioned in para (b) above and area specific studies have been taken to minimize the adverse impact on environment.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.