

It may be noted here that this categorization does not pre-judge the decision to be taken by the MoEF on the basis of the advice rendered by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC), a statutory body of independent expert and MoEF officials set up under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to advise the Government.

(c) and (d) Even though there is no such provision under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to categorize the forest lands into "go" and "no-go" areas, it is expected to create awareness and help the concerned Ministries to prepare projects for those forest areas falling in category 'B' (go areas) as it would enable expeditious environment and forest clearances to projects.

#### **Permission to Vedanta Alumina Limited**

1282. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

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

(a) whether the Ministry had denied permission to Vedanta Alumina Limited to mine for bauxite in the Niyamagiri hills of Lanjigarh, which has been lined with gross violations and misrepresentation by both the company and the Government of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken or proposed to be taken against such gross violation of companies in mining field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has rejected Stage-II approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 660.749 ha. forest land in favour of Orissa Mining Corporation Limited for mining of bauxite ore in Niyamagiri hills of Lanjigarh in Kalahandi and Tayagada districts in Orissa on account of non-compliance of the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. Since Stage-II approval has been rejected the environment clearance for the said mine also became inoperable.

(c) Appropriate action as per the law is taken by the Ministry, as and when any such violation comes to notice of the Government.

#### **Report on Elephant Task Force**

†1283. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.