

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:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Elephant Task Force has submitted any report to Government about its plan to check the incidents of elephants deaths in train accidents;

(b) if so, whether in order to protect the elephants some important facts have been mentioned in said report and by implementing them, several elephants could be saved from such accidents to a large extent;

(c) whether establishment of a National Elephant Protection Authority and recognizing the Indian elephants as its national heritage have also been recommended in that report; and

(d) if so, the details of the decisions and steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Task Force on Project Elephant was set up with a wider mandate and it has submitted its report. The Task Force in its report has made several recommendations including recommendations to prevent death of elephants in train accidents.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The notification declaring elephant as National Heritage Animal has been issued. Establishment of National Elephant Conservation Authority is under process.

Killing of deer at Kartanya Reserve forest

1284. SHRI TARINIKANTA ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether five deers were killed at Kartanya Reserve Forest on 25th October, 2010 being ran over by Gokul Express; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Five spotted deer (Chital: Axis axis) were run over by Gokul Express in the early morning of 24th October 2010. The incident took place on Gonda-Mailani rail line passing through Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary. The incident was detected by the local forest staff and a forest case has been registered against the driver and guard of the train under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.