

The matter is *sub judice* before Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in view of IA no. 100 in Writ Petition (Civil) 337/1995.

***Coal mining in forest areas***

2024. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry had compromised many of its original position to accommodate the demand of other departments *viz.* Coal Ministry in forest area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry has demanded to declare coal in dense forest areas as strategic energy reserve; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) After the enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 with effect from 25.10.1980, prior approval of the Central Government is required for the use of forest land for non-forest purposes. The Act envisages optimization of use of forest land for non-forest purposes, including coal mining. To compensate the loss of forests and to minimize the adverse impact of such non-forest activities on flora and fauna of the area, suitable and site specific mitigation measures are taken. As such, no special dispensation has been proposed to accommodate the demand of other Departments including Coal Ministry.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

***Sources of pollution in Ganga***

†2025. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:  
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that pollution level is found to be increasing along the course of the river Ganga from its origin to its meeting with the sea;

(b) if so, whether Government has identified the sources of the pollution;

(c) if so, the types of these sources and the contribution of each source in increasing the pollution level in river Ganga;

(d) whether Government has any plan to restrict these sources; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.