

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) A proposal for prospecting over 1987.912 ha of forestland of Morgal-II coal block, allotted by the Ministry of Coal to M/s Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited in Katghora Forest Division in Korba district of Chhattisgarh, was received in the Ministry in December, 2009.

(c) and (d) So far, forest clearance to Morgal-II coal block has not been granted as the coal block falls in Hasdeo-Arand Coalfield, which has been identified as Category 'A' (No-Go areas) consequent to the joint exercise undertaken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Ministry of Coal. The inability of the Central Government to accord permission for prospecting of coal in this coal block, as decided by the Central Government, has been conveyed to the State Government.

***Green Gold Sector in North Eastern Region***

2019. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken for holistic growth of Green Gold Sector in India specially in North Eastern Region;

(b) whether Government is aware of the facts that to popularise Green Gold Sector there is need to carry out institutional reform and restructuring;

(c) if so, the steps taken for the same;

(d) whether the Ministry would consider a national policy for the same and setting up a National Development Board for Green Gold; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Bamboo is referred to as Green Gold in India especially in North Eastern Region. For the development of Bamboo sector, a numbers of steps have been taken such as establishment of National Bamboo Mission under the Ministry of Agriculture, National Mission for Bamboo applications under the Ministry of Science and Technology, etc. The Mission approach for the development of this sector is a step toward the institutional reforms. Bamboo plantation is one of the plantation model for afforestation under the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) of the Ministry.

In addition, the Ministry of Environment and Forests had also implemented the Central Sponsored Scheme named as "Preparedness for meeting challenges of bamboo flowering and improving management of bamboo forests".

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal under the consideration of Ministry of Environment and Forests.