

(c) whether it is a fact that No Objection Certificate (NOC) was not taken from the concerned forest department before giving the lease; and

(d) if so, the details of criteria being adopted by different States with regard to mining projects on tribal land and why it is different for Maharashtra and Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) The State Government of Maharashtra has recently submitted proposal to the Ministry of Mines, Government of India for granting mining lease over an area of 1008.33 hectare in favour of M/s Reliance Cementation Private Limited in Yavatmal district of Maharashtra. The said mining lease is yet to be sanctioned. However, four mining leases involving an area of 120.55 ha have already been granted in Yavatmal district of Maharashtra.

(b) Some of the land in the said proposal belongs to tribal people and is within the radius of 10 kilometer from the boundary of Tippeshwar forest.

(c) and (d) No proposal for approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been received by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in respect of the above areas.

Rapid increase in dry land area in the country

†2185. SHRI JAIPRAKASH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the latest report of the United Nations in which it has been stated that the graph of dry land area in India is increasing rapidly and it is spreading in the regions of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether in the report of Centre for Environment Law and Policy the Central Government has been asked to take steps well in time to prevent it; and

(c) the approach of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government is aware of the dry land status and land degradation in various States/UTs, including Uttar Pradesh as reported in the Desertification & Land Degradation Atlas of India (Space Application Centre, 2007) and Wasteland Atlas of India, 2010 (Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) There are several programmes being implemented by various ministries/ departments/organizations addressing land degradation and desertification in the country, that include, National Afforestation Programme (Ministry of Environment & Forests), Integrated Watershed Development Programme (Ministry of Rural development), National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (Ministry of Agriculture) etc. In addition to these, the Bundelkhand Special Package for drought mitigation (7 districts of Uttar Pradesh and 6 districts of Madhya Pradesh) and projects of Uttar Pradesh Bhumi Sudhar Nigam specifically addresses restoration of degraded lands in Uttar Pradesh.

Violation of coastal zone law in Kerala

2186. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of any violations of coastal zone laws in and around Ashtamudi Lake in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether execution of the law is seriously aimed at protecting the back waters in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) As per the information provided by the State Government of Kerala, there was construction of a hotel / resort at Sy. No. 109-2-8 in Neendakara Village without prior clearance under the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991.

(c) The Ministry issued the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification in January, 2011, which supersedes the CRZ Notification of 1991 for the protection of Coastal areas including tidal influenced back water and back water Islands of Kerala. This Notification provides for monitoring and effective implementation of the provisions of the Notification. Separately, all the States / Union Territories were directed to take action against any violation of the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991.

Impact of poaching on tiger population

2187. SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: