

Assessment notification issued on 14th September, 2006 under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) receives cases, of coal mining projects, including those from Coal India Ltd., for prior environmental clearance. Delays occur due to various reasons which include delay in submission of information by the project proponent, holding public hearing, public complaints, court cases, forestry clearances, etc. Steps taken by the Ministry to fast track the EC process include continuous monitoring of status of pending projects, regular meetings of Expert Appraisal Committee, etc.

Impact of shortage of forest officials on monitoring system

788. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two thousand vacancies in IFS and several other posts in the Central Government on the other hand several posts in the State Governments of Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Assam, Himachal Pradesh are also lying vacant for long time due to which smuggling, poaching are on increase in these days; and

(b) if so, whether there is any co-ordination or monitoring system to protect the forests and wild animals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) No Sir, There is no acute shortage of the officers in the Indian Forest Service. The position in respect of officers of Indian Forest Service as on 01.01.2013 is given in Statement-I (*See below*). The information in respect of vacant posts in the State Government of Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Assam and Himachal Pradesh is given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

There is no problem in co-ordination or monitoring to protect the forest and wild animals in the country as the protection work is also supported by workers engaged on work charge basis, people's participation through Joint Forest Management Committees and Eco-Development Committee, etc. In the State of Jharkhand and Himachal Pradesh, the appointment process to fill up the vacant posts has already been started.

Statement-I

*Cadre wise information in respect of the Indian Forest Service
(Total Cadre Strength and In-Position) As on 01/01/2013*

Sl. No.	Cadre	Cadre Strength			In-Position		
		Direct Recruit Posts (RR)	Promotion Posts (SFS)	Total Strength	Direct Recruit Posts (RR)	Promotion Posts (SFS)	Total In-position
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	AGMUT	128	55	183	116	39	155
2	Andhra Pradesh	105	44	149	105	33	138
3	Assam-Meghalaya	100	42	142	86	24	110
4	Bihar	41	17	58	40	10	50
5	Chhattisgarh	92	39	131	92	38	130
6	Gujarat	84	35	119	78	30	108
7	Haryana	49	20	69	48	9	57
8	Himachal Pradesh	80	34	114	75	31	106
9	Jammu and Kashmir	58	48	106	53	39	92
10	Jharkhand	100	42	142	88	37	125
11	Karnataka	115	49	164	112	39	151
12	Kerala	72	30	102	67	23	90
13	Madhya Pradesh	207	89	296	205	87	292
14	Maharashtra	144	62	206	126	46	172
15	Manipur-Tripura	81	34	115	68	35	103
16	Nagaland	30	12	42	23	7	30
17	Odisha	99	42	141	91	21	112

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18	Punjab	41	17	58	41	10	51
19	Rajasthan	102	43	145	89	7	96
20	Sikkim	21	9	30	21	7	28
21	Tamil Nadu	103	44	147	97	22	119
22	Uttar Pradesh	152	65	217	143	30	173
23	Uttarakhand	75	32	107	75	15	90
24	West Bengal	88	38	126	76	29	105
TOTAL		2167	942	3109	2015	668	2683*

* In addition, Cadre Allocation of 78 IFS probationers of 2011 Examination is in progress.

* The Result of IFS Examination, 2012 for filling up of 85 posts in the IFS has recently been published by the UPSC and other formalities are being completed

Statement-II

*Details of vacancies in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand,
Assam and Himachal Pradesh*

Sl. No.	Name of the State Cadre	No. of Vacancies					
		ACF/S FS	Forest Ranger	Deputy Ranger	Forster Gr. I	Forester Gr. II	Forest Guard
1.	Assam	15	48	63	141	72	546
2.	Chhattisgarh	11	158	213		08	31
3.	Himachal Pradesh	12	76	60		-	463
4.	Jharkhand	16	143	-		331	2689
5.	Odisha	53	175	140		757	804
TOTAL		107	600	476		1088	3933

* In the state of Jharkhand and Himachal Pradesh the appointment process has already been started.