

(b) whether Government has failed to address the issue of shortage of staff and infrastructure faced by various benches of NGT, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the details of the total number of benches, the sanctioned and actual staff strength along with the details of infrastructure and facilities provided to them; and

(d) the details of the pending demands and indents from NGT for necessary infrastructure, court structure, staff and other related requirements?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) is at Delhi. Besides the Principal Bench, NGT Benches are operational at Chennai, Bhopal and Pune. The NGT Bench at Kolkata is yet to become operational. The total number of posts sanctioned for the Principal and other four Benches, for different categories, is 120. As per information received from the Tribunal, total number of posts filled till now are 43. In addition, NGT has appointed 68 personnel on outsourcing/contract basis and 44 Multi-Tasking Staff whose case is pending litigation in court.

(d) The demands and indents from NGT for necessary infrastructure, court structure, staff and other related requirements as and when received are examined and decided as per extant rules/orders/instructions of the Government of India on the subject.

**Review of Government Order on insisting fresh
forest clearances**

1653. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mining companies have approached Government to review the order issued by the Ministry in regard to obtaining fresh forest clearances by mining companies for their entire lease areas by January, 2015, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the request of the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries has been taken into consideration by Government, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the stand of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) Ministry of Environment and Forests *vide* letter dated 1st February, 2013 informed the all State/Union Territory Governments *inter-alia* as below:—

- (i) Henceforth, in case of mining leases having forest land in part or in full, approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FC Act) for diversion of entire forest land located within the mining shall be obtained before execution/renewal of the lease under the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. Applications seeking prior approval under FC Act for diversion of the entire forest land (and not a portion thereof) located within the area proposed to be assigned on lease shall only be accepted by the Nodal Officers in the concerned State/Union Territory Governments.
- (ii) All State/UT Governments shall within a period of three months submit to the MoEF details of all such mines where approval under the FC Act for diversion of only a part of forest land has either been obtained or is presently under examination in the State/Central Government. The State Governments in all such cases shall request the concerned user agencies to submit application to obtain approval under the FC Act for diversion of the remaining forest land located within the mining lease. Mining in such leases after two years will be allowed only if the user agency either obtains approval under the FC Act for the entire forest land located within the mining lease or surrenders such forest land for which approval under FC Act has not been obtained and execute a revised mining lease for the reduced lease area.

The Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI) *vide* their letter dated July 5, 2013 requested the MoEF that above guidelines may be considered for review and provision of obtaining approval under the FC Act for diversion of entire forest land located within the mining lease within a period of two years should not be insisted. The FIMI in their said letter further suggested that the said guidelines may be amended to provide that all Project Proponents must file application to seek approval under the FC Act for diversion of entire forest land located within the mining lease within a period of one year, failing which mine will be closed till the project proponent submits application to seek approval under the FC Act.

The said representation of the FIMI is presently under consideration of the MoEF.

Greening of degraded lands

1654. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has envisaged the greening of degraded lands,