

10. No. G.S.R. 856(E), dated the 14th October, 1987.
11. No. G.S.R. 516(E), dated the 1st August, 1991.
12. No. G.S.R. 100(E), dated the 17th February, 1992.
13. No. G.S.R. 748(E), dated the 11th October, 1994.
14. No. G.S.R. 27(E), dated the 13th January, 1995.
15. No. G.S.R. 214(E), dated the 11th April, 1997.
16. No. G.S.R. 713(E), dated the 12th September, 2000.
17. No. G.S.R. 187(E), dated the 15th March, 2001.
18. No. G.S.R. 572(E), dated the 16th August, 2002.
19. No. G.S.R. 677(E), dated the 14th October, 2004.
20. No. G.S.R. 522(E), dated the 1st August, 2007.
21. No. G.S.R. 96(E), dated the 13th February, 2009.

Mining activities in forest areas in the country

352. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of mining activities in the forest areas that affects the life of the animals and birds of the forest;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken by Government to protect animals' and birds' lives by avoiding mining activities in forest areas in the country including Telangana; and
- (d) if so, the details of directions issued by Government to all States/UTs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI) : (a) and (b) Mining activities in forest areas *per se* affect bio-diversity of plant, animal and birds life. While according prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the Environment (Protection), Act, 1986 for mining projects in forest areas, the Central Government assesses the impact of such projects on plants and animals in each case and stipulates appropriate measures to mitigate/minimise these impacts. These measures include afforestation to compensate the loss of flora, implementation of wildlife management plan to combat the adverse impacts on the fauna, afforestation of safety zone, phased reclamation of mined out areas *etc.* to be undertaken at the project cost.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken the following steps to regulate mining activities in the forest areas of the country:

- (i) Use of forest land for non-forest purposes, including mining purposes requires prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. To facilitate scrutiny of the proposals seeking prior permission of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in an effective, efficient and transparent manner, an elaborate institutional mechanism, both at the Central as well as State/Union Territory Governments level has been set up.
- (ii) The Central Government having due regard to all or any of the following matters accords approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for mining or reject the same:
 - (a) Whether the forest land proposed to be used for non-forest purpose forms part of a nature reserve, national park, wildlife sanctuary, biosphere reserve or forms part of the habitat of any endangered or threatened species of flora and fauna or of an area lying in severely eroded catchment;
 - (b) Whether the State Government or the other authority has certified that it has considered all other alternatives and that no other alternatives in the circumstances are feasible and that the required area is the minimum needed for the purpose; and
 - (c) Whether the State Government or the other authority undertakes to provide at its cost for the acquisition of land of an equivalent area and afforestation thereof.
- (iii) Central Government while according approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 stipulates appropriate mitigative measures, such as creation and maintenance of compensatory afforestation, realization of Net Present Value of the diverted forest land, implementation of wildlife conservation plan (wherever required), phased reclamation of mined out area, demarcation of boundary of mining lease *etc.* A copy of the approval accorded by the Central Government is uploaded on website of the Ministry to place it in public domain.
- (iv) In case a proposal involves diversion of forest land located within a protected area notified in accordance with the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, approval of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) and Hon'ble Supreme Court is required to be obtained by the

concerned user agency before grant of approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Similarly, in case the forest land proposed for diversion is located within the duly notified eco-sensitive zone around boundary of a protected area, EIA of the project needs to be placed before the Standing Committee of NBWL. In case eco-sensitive zone has not been notified, 10 km distance from the boundary of such protected area shall be treated as eco-sensitive zone. The Standing Committee of NBWL stipulates additional safeguard to minimize impacts of such projects on wildlife.

- (v) Adequate safeguards are already in place to ensure that approvals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land to be diverted is bare minimum and its diversion for non-forest purpose/Mining is unavoidable.

Oil processed by refineries

†353. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the refinery-wise quantum of crude oil processed by the refineries of various oil companies during the past three years and till date;
- (b) the company-wise utilization of oil refining capacity of various oil refineries and whether this utilization of capacity is commensurate with their potential; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) The refinery/company-wise quantum of crude oil processed by the refineries of various oil companies along with their capacity utilization during past three years and the current year is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) The company-wise utilization of oil refining capacity of various oil refineries is given in the Annexure referred in (a) above. the capacity utilization of the refineries is in line with their design capacity and is 103.4% of the installed capacity for the industry as a whole and 99.6% for the Public Sector Undertaking refineries, during 2013-14. The schedule of planned shutdowns and unplanned outages apart from availability of crude oil are the factors that impact the installed capacity utilization of a refinery.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.