under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. As of now, there is no proposal in the Ministry to completely ban opencast mining in forest areas and permit only underground mining in the forest area.

Environmental rules for dusty cities

†1638. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Raigarh and Korba in Chhattisgarh are known as dusty cities owing to the coal mines and steel and aluminium factories situated there; and

(b) whether any environmental rule applies on the mines and factories in Raigarh and Korba, if so, the factories and mines on which action was taken and when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR) : (a) Based on the concept of comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI), the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in collaboration with IIT-Delhi has carried out comprehensive environmental assessment in 88 prominent industrial clusters during 2009-10. As per this assessment, 43 industrial clusters with CEPI score 70 and above are identified as critically polluted areas (CPAs) including Korba with CEPI score 83.0 and ranked 5th in the list of 43 CPAs. However, Raigarh is not in the list of CPAs.

(b) Environmental standards for emissions (including dust particles) and effluent discharges notified under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 are also applicable to thermal power plants, mines and various industries operating in Korba and Raigarh. The Chhattisgarh State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) is the authority responsible for implementing the provisions of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 in Korba and Raigarh. Based on the CEPI score, Ministry of Environmental, Forest & Climate Change imposed moratorium *vide* O. M. 13.01.2010 on consideration of developmental projects (including the projects in pipeline for environmental clearance in 43 critically polluted industrial cluster/areas) including Korba which was lifted on 17th September, 2013 by MoEF&CC on reassessment of CEPI scores which was below 80 and/or are showing a decreasing trend. CPCB under its Environmental surveillance Squad (ESS) inspected industries in Korba and Raigarh and based on the non-compliance, issued direction to M/s MSP Steel and Power Ltd.,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Jamgaon, Raigarh under Section 5 of the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 and in case of M/s Jindal Steel and Power Ltd., Raigarh, direction were issued under Section 18(1) b of the Air Act, 1981 to the Chhattisgarh SPCB.

Legal status of riverine forests of Mizoram

1639. SHRI RONALD SAPA TLAU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the legal status of those 'riverine reserved forest', and 'such private properties owned by Mizoram Tribals' covered under Land Settlement certificate and periodic pattas issued and accepted by the State Government falling within the 'riverine reserved forest' in view of Mizoram Government issued notification, declaring land within half a mile 'on either side of the 16 rivers' under Mizoram Forest Act, the details thereof; and

(b) whether State Forest Department approved in the past, payment of due compensation for private lands acquired from some riverine reserve, the same compensation is discriminately denied to Land Settlement certificate holders for the submergence of their land by Tuirial Hydel Project, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR) : (a) As reported by the Government of Mizoram, the forests within half a mile on either side of 16 major rivers in the State of Mizoram have been notified as "Riverine Reserved Forests" as per the provisions of the Mizoram Forest Act, 1955. These rivers are Tlawng (Dhaleswari), Tut (Gutur), Teirei (Pakwa), Langkaih (Longai), Serlui, Chemlui, Tuivai, Tuivawl, Tuirini, Tuirial, Tuiruang, Khawthlangtuipui (Karnafully), Tuichawng, Kau, De and Phairuang.

The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is applicable in Riverine Reserved Forests. Land Settlement Certificates and Periodic Pattas in these Reserved Forests can only be issued after following due procedures under the Forest (conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) As all Land Settlement Certificates and Periodic Pattas issued in "Riverine Reserved Forests" without following the due procedures under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 contravenes the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the question of paying compensation to holders of such Certificates and Pattas does not arise.