

Sl.No.	State Name	Stretch Identified	Number
27.	Uttar Pradesh	Betwa, Ghaghara, Gomti, Hindon, Kalinadi, Ramganga, Rapti, Rihand, Sai, Saryu, Ganga, Yamuna, Kosi	13
28.	Uttarakhand	Bhela, Dhela, Suswa, Ganga, Kosi	5
29.	West Bengal	Barakar, Churni, Damodar, Dwarakeshwar, Dwarka, Ganga, Jalangi, Kaljani, Kansi, Karola, Mahananda, Mathabhanga, Mayurkashi, Rupnarayan, Silabati, Teesta, Vindhadhari	17
TOTAL			302

Forest clearances for mining projects

843. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) how many requests for the grant of forest clearances for mining projects, including coal and iron have been received by Government since the year 2000;
- (b) how many of these requests have been denied;
- (c) on what grounds these clearances were denied; and
- (d) the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has received 518 proposals, involving forest area more than 40 ha, seeking prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 including coal and iron ore mining projects. Out of total, 423 proposals have been approved by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 while 40 proposals have been rejected by the Central Government. For all purposes, the proposals received from the State/UT Governments are examined by the Central Government to look into following:

- (i) 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 severely eroded catchment;

- (ii) whether the use of any forest land is for agricultural purposes or for the rehabilitation of persons displaced from their residences by reason of any river valley or hydro-electric project;
- (iii) whether the State Government or the Union Territory Administration, as the case may be, 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;
- (iv) whether the State Government or the Union Territory Administration, as the case may be, undertakes to provide at its cost for the acquisition of land of an equivalent area and afforestation thereof;
- (v) whether the per unit requirement of forest land is significantly higher than the national average for similar projects; and
- (vi) whether the State Government or the Union Territory Administration, as the case may be, before making their recommendation has considered all issues having direct and indirect impact of the diversion of forest land on forest, wildlife and environment.

The Central Government after examination of the proposals in light of above mentioned attributes takes decision regarding rejection or recommendation of the proposals received for approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. State-wise and year-wise details of the proposal received by the Central Government and decision thereon are given in Statement.

Statement

State-wise details of status of grant of forest clearance by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to mining proposals during the period of 2000-2015

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2000-2015		
		Total proposal received	Approved	Closed/Rejected/Withdrawn
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	57	47	4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	5	0

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	2	2	0
4.	Chhattisgarh	93	82	9
5.	Goa	19	16	3
6.	Himachal Pradesh	6	5	0
7.	Jharkhand	92	78	6
8.	Karnataka	31	29	0
9.	Madhya Pradesh	64	49	8
10.	Maharashtra	15	14	0
11.	Meghalaya	2	2	0
12.	Odisha	104	77	6
13.	Rajasthan	17	12	1
14.	Tamil Nadu	2	1	0
15.	Telangana	1	0	0
16.	Uttar Pradesh	2	1	1
17.	Uttarakhand	2	1	0
18.	West Bengal	4	2	2
TOTAL		518	423	40

(Details given above pertains to the mining proposal involving area above 40 ha of forest land)

Framing air quality norms

†844. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether air pollution is one of the main causes of concern for the human health in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has framed air quality norms in various cities and if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore and the steps taken to control air pollution; and

(d) whether a specialist body is proposed to be set up to suggest the ways in which air pollution can be controlled and if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.