

Land to a cement project in Yavatmal forest

56. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has approved the diversion of 467.64 hectares of land to cement project of a private company in Yavatmal forest of Maharashtra for the construction of a cement factory;

(b) whether Government is aware that the area was a breeding ground for tigers which is an endangered species and the killing of a Tiger named "Avni" a mother of two cubs thereafter; and

(c) the amount of compensation that is being paid by the private company for the acquisition of the land in the forest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir the Ministry has granted prior approval under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 467.45 ha. of Forest Land for non-forestry purpose to M/s Reliance Cementation Private Limited, in Pimaradwadi, Horapur and Govindpur villages of Yavatmal District of Maharashtra, *vide* this Ministry's letter no. File No. 8-28/2012-FC dated 12th September 2017.

(b) It was informed by the State Government while submitting the proposal that the proposed area does not fall under any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor etc. and no protected area was located within 10 kilometres distance from the forest land proposed for diversion in favour of M/s Reliance Cementation Private Limited, in Pimaradwadi, Horapur and Govindpur villages of Yavatmal District of Maharashtra.

(c) The Forest land is not acquired but the forest land is given to the User Agency by the State Government for non-forestry purpose and Compensatory Levis such as Compensatory Afforestation cost, Net Present Value and other charges are deposited by the User Agency in Compensatory Afforestation Fund. In this case M/s Reliance Cementation Private Limited has deposited ₹ 52,06,22,016.63/- (Fifty Two Crore Six Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Sixteen and sixty three paisa) amount as compensatory levies in Compensatory Afforestation Fund of Maharashtra.