

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2276**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2021**

**Mining projects in protected forest areas**

2276. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has approved any mining projects in protected forest areas in the last five years, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of such projects which are due to be awarded in the next five years;
- (c) whether Government has studied the impact on flora, fauna and indigenous tribes of people who are affected by such mining practices, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government has recorded protests for mining in such areas, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

- (a) to (d) As per the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 04.08.2006 in the Writ Petition (C) no. 202/1995 the permission for mining cannot be granted inside any National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary. However, the mining activities can be permitted in Protected Forest (PF) Areas which are neither in National Park nor in Sanctuary by the concerned State Government subject to prior approval of Central Government under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The State/UT wise details of such cases approved during last 5 years under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for mining in forest areas (including Protected Forest Areas) is **annexed**.

It is not possible to tell how many projects would be awarded in next five years.

The Central Government considers the proposals for diversion of forest land when the same are duly recommended by the concerned State/UT. Whenever any proposal for any non-forestry activity including mining, is received for granting prior approval of diversion of forest area under Forest (Conservation), Act, 1980, due diligence, including impact on flora and fauna, is exercised to avoid the use of forest land, or to keep it at bare minimum. In cases where it is unavoidable, the forest area is allowed to be diverted, subject to certain conditions including the Compensatory Afforestation (CA), payment of Net Present Value (NPV) and protection/afforestation of Safety Zone area. Considering the impact of the project on flora and fauna, additional mitigation measures in the form of Soil and Moisture Conservation works, Wildlife Management plan, Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plan etc. are also stipulated on case-to-case basis, wherever necessary.

In addition the compliance under Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (FRA) is also ensured prior to any approval for use of forest area for non-forestry purpose under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is accorded.

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**Annexure referred to the part (a) to (d) of the Rajya Sabha UnStarred Question No. 2776 asked by Shri Derek O' Brien regarding "Mining projects in protected forest areas" due for answer on 09.08.2021**

Category: <b>Mining</b>		During the Period: <b>01.04.2016 to 31.03.2021</b>
<b>S. No.</b>	<b>STATE / UT</b>	<b>Area Approved (in Ha.)</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	25.73
<b>2.</b>	<b>Assam</b>	425.50
<b>3.</b>	<b>Chhattisgarh</b>	1448.68
<b>4.</b>	<b>Goa</b>	17.31
<b>5.</b>	<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>	2.18
<b>6.</b>	<b>Jharkhand</b>	1113.56
<b>7.</b>	<b>Karnataka</b>	85.09
<b>8.</b>	<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	2795.91
<b>9.</b>	<b>Maharashtra</b>	518.31
<b>10.</b>	<b>Meghalaya</b>	11.37
<b>11.</b>	<b>Orissa</b>	7406.12
<b>12.</b>	<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	16.72
<b>13.</b>	<b>Telangana</b>	2218.60
<b>14.</b>	<b>Tripura</b>	12.95
<b>15.</b>	<b>Uttarakhand</b>	23.75
<b>16.</b>	<b>West Bengal</b>	191.42
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>16313.17</b>
Source: <a href="https://parivesh.nic.in">https://parivesh.nic.in</a> (During the Period : 01.04.2016 to 31.03.2021)		