

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 196
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.02.2022

Illegal mining of forest land in Digboi Forest Division

196 SHRI A. D. SINGH:

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

- (a) details of forest land in the Digboi Forest Division that has been illegally mined by North Eastern Coalfields without requisite approval;
- (b) measures Government is taking to restore the said forest cover; and
- (c) measures Government is taking to safeguard wildlife particularly elephants in the Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve which is the largest rain-forest spread over 937 Sq. Kms.?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) Protection and management of forests is primarily the responsibility of concerned State/UT. The various actions to check illegal mining are taken by the State Govt. as per the provisions under various Acts, Rules, Guidelines and orders of Hon'ble Courts.

As per information received from the Government of Assam, 73.20 hectare of forest land has been illegally mined by the North Eastern Coalfields, Coal India Limited (NECF, CIL).

State Govt has further informed that the said illegal coal mining has already been stopped. The NECF, CIL has been penalized for the illegal coal mining activity and a demand note of rupees ₹43,24,85,798/- for Penal Compensatory Afforestation and other levies has been sent to NECF, CIL by the State Govt. Further, the Bio-diversity Management Plan, Regional Wildlife Plan and Carrying Capacity Study has been prepared by the Rain Forest Research Institute Jorhat. The total cost of implementation of this plan is ₹62.5 crore.

- (c) As informed by the Govt. of Assam, the Dihing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary has been upgraded to Dehing Patkai National Park. Routine patrolling duties are being performed on regular basis in and around the Reserve Forests/Dihing Patkai National Park keeping liaison with the District Civil & Police administration as and when required including in notified elephant corridors. Moreover, the Bio-diversity Management Plan, Regional-Wildlife Plan and Carrying Capacity Study have been prepared by the Rain Forest Research Institute, Jorhat, for safeguarding the wildlife particularly Elephants in Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve.
