

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1165
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.12.2024

Deforestation due to mining operations

1165. SHRI P.P. SUNEER:

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

- (a) the recommendations made by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in its Biodiversity Assessment Report regarding mining in the Parsa East Kete Basan (PEKB) in the Hasdeo forest region of Chattisgarh;
- (b) whether the WII cautioned about the potential for Human-Animal conflict in the region due to expansion of mining activities and whether Government has identified regions where such conflicts exist;
- (c) the reasons for the mining clearance granted in the region despite environmental concerns; and
- (d) the number of trees to be felled to facilitate mining in the Hasdeo region?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) to (d) The Government of Chhattisgarh assigned a Biodiversity Assessment Study of whole Hasdeo-Arand Coalfields to Indian Council of Forestry, Research and Education, Dehradun who in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun conducted study and submitted the report to the State Government. The report was submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change by the State Government vide their letter dated 14.06.2021. The said report inter-alia suggested that the allotted four contiguous coal blocks falling within the Gej-Jhink watershed viz., Tara (15), Parsa (13) PEKB (14) & Kente Extension (12) that are either already opened or in advance stage of getting the statutory clearances/ToR approved, can be considered for mining with strict environmental safeguards including appropriate conservation measures for management of surface water and biodiversity.

As per the information received during the month of July, 2024 from the Government of Chhattisgarh, 94460 trees have been felled in Parsa East Kete Basen Mine and 53,40,586 trees have been planted as compensatory afforestation, mine reclamation and translocation. Further, the State has informed that 273757 number of trees are to be cut in this forest for mining activities in the coming years.
