

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 14
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024

Allotment of Forest Land to Mining Companies

*14. SHRI RAJKUMAR ROAT:

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

- (a) the details of the area of land belonging to the Department of Forests allotted by the Government on lease or otherwise to mining companies in the country during the last five years, State/division-wise including Udaipur Banswara division along with the criteria thereof and detailed information with regard to the names of companies, total area, period of lease, conditions and copies of No Objection Certificates (NOCs);
- (b) whether the NOCs for the land belonging to the Department of Forest in Rajasthan have been issued to the mining companies without concurrence of the Gram Sabhas and in violation of the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act;
- (c) if so, whether the Government proposes to cancel all the said NOCs;
- (d) if so, the time by which these NOCs are likely to be withdrawn and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government considers it mandatory to take NOCs from the concerned Gram Sabhas of the Gram Panchayat of the forest land area, constituted under the Panchayati Raj or the PESA Act prior to allotting said land to the companies?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

- (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *14 to be answered on 22.07.2024 on “Allotment of Forest Land to Mining Companies” by Shri Rajkumar Roat

- (a) The 'land' is a State subject. The forest areas and the legal boundaries thereof are determined and maintained by the concerned State Government/UT Administration. Accordingly, the final decision to assign on lease or allot the forest land for any non-forestry purpose is within the domain of the concerned State Government/ UT Administration. However, the prior approval of the Central Government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 is required for using any forest land for non-forestry purposes.

In this regard, the Central Government has launched an online portal namely PARIVESH (“Pro Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive and Virtuous Environmental Single window Hub”) for the purpose of submitting and processing proposals for the Forest, Wildlife and other Environmental clearances. As per the information available on the portal 179 number of proposals involving 18922.98 ha of forest land have been approved for diversion in mining category under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 during last five years *i.e.* from 01.04.2019 to 31.03.2024. State/UT wise details of forest land diverted in mining category under the provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 during the last five years is enclosed at **Annexure-I** and the details of the mining proposals approved in case of state of Rajasthan during the last five years is enclosed at **Annexure-II**.

The details of projects like names of companies, total area, period of lease, conditions including locations and name of division is available in the public domain on the PARIVESH portal.

- (b) to (e) The approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 is only the prior approval of the Central Govt. and the final order for the diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes is issued by the concerned State Govt./UT Administration after ensuring the compliance of the provisions of all other Acts and Rules made thereunder. In this regard the Rule 11 (7) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 provides that:

“the State Government or Union territory Administration, as the case may be, after receiving the ‘Final’ approval of the Central Government under sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Adhiniyam, and after fulfilment and compliance of the provisions of all other Acts and rules made thereunder, as applicable including ensuring settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (2 of 2007), shall issue order for diversion, assignment of lease or de-reservation, as the case may be”.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to part (a) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *14 to be answered on 22.07.2024 on “Allotment of Forest Land to Mining Companies” by Shri Rajkumar Roat

States/UTs wise forest area approved in mining projects for use of forest land for non-forestry purpose under Van (Sanrakhan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam Act, 1980

Category : Mining		During the Period : 01/04/2019 to 31/03/2024	
S. No.	State / UTs	No. of Proposals	Area approved (in Ha.)
1	Arunachal Pradesh	1	83.12
2	Assam	12	451.99
3	Chhattisgarh	11	2258.20
4	Himachal Pradesh	4	85.50
5	Jharkhand	16	2658.23
6	Karnataka	13	750.24
7	Madhya Pradesh	21	3406.63
8	Maharashtra	6	262.52
9	Meghalaya	1	6.55
10	Odisha	48	7680.78
11	Rajasthan	4	488.58
12	Tamil Nadu	1	16.72
13	Telangana	6	571.13
14	Tripura	31	77.26
15	Uttar Pradesh	1	0.00
16	Uttarakhand	2	23.75
17	West Bengal	1	101.77
Grand Total		179	18922.98

Source : <https://parivesh.nic.in>

Annexure-II**Annexure referred to part (a) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *14 to be answered on 22.07.2024 on “Allotment of Forest Land to Mining Companies” by Shri Rajkumar Roat****Details of the approved proposals of Mining Category in Rajasthan during the Period from 01/04/2019 to 31/03/2024**

S. NO.	Proposal No	Proposal Name	User Agency	Name of Division	Area Approved (in Ha.)	Stage II Date
1	FP/RJ/MIN /125714 /2021	Pahadpur Block A & B for mining purpose	DMG RAJASTHAN	Bharatpur Territorial	398.0085	11.03.2022
2	FP/RJ/MIN /921/ 2000	M/L of Silica Sand	M/S. HIND MINERALS	Karauli Territorial	5.9095	19.04.2023
3	FP/RJ/MIN /142599 /2021	Opencast Marble Mining in Revenue Village - Danta,	RDSA MINING LLP	Pratapgarh Territorial	74.249	09.10.2023
4	FP/RJ/MIN /142600 /2021	Opencast Marble Mining (Plot No.02/2019 in Revenue Village Kela Mela,	RDSA MINING LLP	Pratapgarh Territorial	10.4162	05.10.2023
Total					488.5832	