

जयराम रमेश  
JAIRAM RAMESH



राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)  
पर्यावरण एवं वन  
भारत सरकार  
नई दिल्ली-110003  
MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI - 110 003

*Dear Shri Yeddyurappaji -*

This morning, a number of MPs from Karnataka cutting across party lines met me in Parliament and expressed their concern at the recent decision of the Karnataka state government to allow mining in reserved forest areas in different districts of the state.

I have also seen some newspaper reports on this decision wherein the Home Minister of Karnataka is quoted as having said that this decision was taken after consulting the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests.

I wish to state categorically the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests has **not** been consulted by the state on this decision. I wish to state further that even though the state government may have given permission, the final authority, as far as diversion of forest land for non-forestry (including mining) purposes is concerned, is the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests as per the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. I am sure that the state government is well aware of this but I did not want to leave any ambiguity on this score especially in view of the media reports to which I have referred.

All proposals that will be initiated by companies following the decision of the state government must necessarily get **prior** approval from the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

*Jairam Ramesh*  
Jairam Ramesh

23/2

*With warm regards,*

**Shri B.S. Yeddyurappa**  
Chief Minister, Karnataka