

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2450**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2023

**Unauthorised Soil Extraction**

2450. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of large scale unauthorized soil extraction by levelling a hillock at Mattappally in Palamel Grama Panchayat, near Mavelikkara, Alappuzha district in Kerala;
- (b) whether the soil extraction is carried on in violation of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by the Government;
- (c) if so, the action taken by the appropriate authorities in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government propose to investigate the matter and take necessary steps including prevention of soil extraction from Mattappally hill in Kerala and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government is further seized off concerns of adverse health impact and shortage of water due to the soil extraction from the Mattappally hill and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (e) As reported by Directorate of Mining and Geology, Government of Kerala, the quarrying permit was issued on 08.05.2023 by Geologist, District Office Alappuzha under Kerala Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2015, for the removal of ordinary earth for the special purpose of development of National Highway-66. Thereafter, a lot of complaints were raised against this permission and a petition was also filed before Hon'ble High Court of Kerala.

Further, vide order dated 08.12.2023, Hon'ble Court of Kerala directed the Principal Secretary, Industries Department, Government of Kerala to constitute a committee by selecting four members at his level to prepare a report with regard to the issue involved and if required, visit the place, and to submit a report. The matter is, accordingly, sub-judice.

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