

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES AND MINERALS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3531
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2000
REOPENING OF MARBLE MINES IN RAJASTHAN
TARACHAND BHAGORA

Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to grant its approval to reopen the marble mines in the forest region of Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the time by which the approval is likely to be granted;
- (c) if not, whether the Government have chalked out any programme for rehabilitation of workers in these mines who have been rendered jobless because of the ban imposed by the Union Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA)

(a) & (b) Marble is a minor mineral defined under section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and therefore granting of mineral concessions for the mineral are governed by the Minor Mineral Concession Rules of the State Government concerned. The State Government of Rajasthan has informed that there are 522 leases of marble in Rajasthan which fall in the forest area. Ministry of Environment & Forests (MOEF) has granted approval for 197 marble mining leases which fall in the forest region, 28 marble mining leases have been accorded first stage clearance. Temporary working permission was accorded to 35 marble mines in Andhi area of Jaipur District. Proposals for reopening of 44 marble mining leases have been rejected by MOEF. For the remaining mining leases also proposals have been processed by the State Government as per law.

(c) & (d) The State Government of Rajasthan has stated that a number of workers who were rendered jobless due to closure of mines have found employment in the mines which are working at present. Besides this, a number of persons have been provided gainful employment by the State Government of Rajasthan under the Poverty Alleviation Programmes and Self-employment Schemes.