

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2080  
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010  
MINING WITHOUT ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE  
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of the Union Government that French Cement Giant Lafarge's has illegally taken over tribal land in East Khasi Hill District of Meghalaya in collusion with local officials and start mining without the mandatory environmental clearance from the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Scheduled Tribes of the area have been illegally deprived of their land and the same was mortgaged to a host of multi-lateral agencies and foreign banks; and
- (d) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d): M/s Lafarge Umiam Mining Pvt. Ltd. (LUMPL), a subsidiary company of M/s Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd. (LSC), Bangladesh is a joint venture between Lafarge S.A. and Cementos Molins. M/s Lafarge Umiam Mining Pvt. Ltd. is procuring limestone from Meghalaya and sending it to the cement plant in Bangladesh through a conveyor belt. The mine from which they are collecting limestone is Nongtraï Limestone Mine and is located at Nongtraï village under Shella Confederacy, Tehsil Sohra, East Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya. The mine lease area has been taken on lease by M/s LUMPL from the village Darbar of Nongtraï.

Ministry of Environment & Forests had granted environment clearance to Limestone Opencast Mining Project at Phalangkaruh, Nongtraï, Tehsil Sohra, District East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya of M/s Lum Mawshun Minerals Pvt. Ltd on 9th August, 2001, which was subsequently transferred to M/s Lafarge Umiam Mining Pvt. Ltd. on 30.7.2002. Another project of M/s Lafarge Umiam Mining Pvt. Ltd relating to Shella Shale and Siltstone Mining Project in village Shella, Tehsil Sohra, District East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya was accorded environmental clearance on 4th December, 2006.

During the course of the hearing in IA Nos. 1868, 2091, 2225-2227, 2380 & 2568 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/1995 in the matter of Godavarman Thirumalpad & Ors., it was mentioned that the LUMPL had mortgaged the mining area to international financial institutions for raising funds. The mining operation at present stands closed in accordance with the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 5.2.2010.