

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2259
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010
MINING ACTIVITIES IN ARAVALIS
Acharia Shri Basudeb;Dome Dr. Ram Chandra

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

- (a) the reasons for banning mining activities in the Aravalis in Haryana by the Hon'ble Supreme Court;
- (b) whether the State Government of Haryana proposes to allow mining activities again in the Aravalis; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) In view of continued damage to environment and ecology in Aravali Region and non compliance of the provisions of various Acts and Rules, especially relating to reclamation and rehabilitation of mined out areas, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in IA No. 1967 in IA No. 1785 in writ petition (c) no. 4677 of 1985 in the matter of M.C. Mehta Vs Union of India and Ors., vide order dated 8th May, 2009 have suspended all mining operations in the Aravali Hill range falling in the State of Haryana within the area of the approximately 448 sq. km in the Districts of Faridabad and Gurgaon including Mewat till reclamation plan duly certified by the State of Haryana, Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) and Central Empowered Committee (CEC) is prepared in accordance with the statutory provisions contained in various enactments.

(b) & (c): The Hon'ble Supreme Court, subsequently, vide order dated 8th October,2009 have directed the State of Haryana to lay down the guidelines and procedure for grant of mining lease in 600 ha of land to be identified and earmarked in Faridabad, as also to establish an Aravali Rehabilitation Fund and a Monitoring Committee. Actual mining operation could commence on submission of the rehabilitation and reclamation plan by the State and its approval by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Government of Haryana has engaged M/s WAPCOS Ltd, a consultant, to prepare the requisite reclamation and rehabilitation plans, which would need to be approved and the environment clearance, case by case, as applicable, would also need to be obtained before starting any mining operations in those areas.