

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:461

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010

DAMAGE TO ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Kaswan Shri Ram Singh;Roy Shri Mahendra Kumar

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

- (a) whether cases of damage caused to the environment and ecology and non-compliance of the law relating thereto especially on reclamation and rehabilitation of mined out areas have been reported during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Supreme Court has ordered suspension of the mining activities in various parts of the country, including Aravali region;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the directions/orders issued for protection of the fragile environment and ecology; and
- (e) the follow-up action taken by the respective State Governments thereon in pursuance of the Court's directions?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 461 REGARDING "DAMAGE TO ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY" ASKED BY SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR ROY AND SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN DUE FOR ANSWER ON 28.04.2010.

(a) & (b): Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) is entrusted with administration of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR), 1988. Rules 31 to 41 of MCDR specifically deal with environment. Based on inspection carried out in respect of 5522 mines by IBM during the last three years, violations of different types have been reported in 125 mines, which inter-alia includes 10 cases of violation relating to reclamation and rehabilitation of land.

(c) & (d): The Hon'ble Supreme Court has pronounced various orders, directions, judgments from time to time directing suspension / closure of mining operations in different parts of the country including the State of Haryana, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Goa. In the context of Aravali in Haryana, the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 8th May, 2009 has suspended all mining operations in the Aravali Hill Range falling in the State of Haryana within an area of 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 and Rules made there under. Further, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in another matter, vide its order dated 19th February, 2010 have restrained mining in all those leases falling in Aravali in the State of Rajasthan, whose renewal is pending.

(e): It is requisite for the State Governments to follow orders, directions, judgments of Hon'ble Supreme Court in letter and spirit.