

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4751
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2010
ENVIRONMENTAL BALANCE
Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

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

- (a) whether the Government is formulating any policy to maintain environmental balance in view of arbitrary exploitation of minerals from hills and rivers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Ministry of Environment and Forests had constituted a Group under the Chairmanship of Secretary (E&F) to evolve model guidelines regarding environmental aspects of quarrying of minor minerals. The report of the Group containing its recommendations has been forwarded to all the State Governments and other concerned agencies. The recommendations inter-alia included the minimum size of the lease, duration of lease and depth of river bed mining.

(c): Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) & (b) above.