

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4299

ANSWERED ON:29.08.2011

BAN ON MINING OF LIMESTONE

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

(a) Whether the mining of Limestone and other similar minerals is prohibited within the Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ) areas as it was prohibited as per earlier CRZ notification, 1991;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any scientific study/base for prohibiting limestone and other such mineral mining in CRZ areas;

(c) whether mining of lime stone and other similar minerals can be permitted, where there is an elevated coastal area as well as cliff kind of structure;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some State Governments have taken up the issue of allowing the mining activities in the CRZ areas subject to strict compliance of environmental protection measures and also based on the technical studies for above mentioned areas; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN )

(a) & (b): The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991 and the recently issued CRZ Notification, 2011, prohibits the mining of sand, rocks and other substrata material including limestone except rare minerals like, monazite, rutile etc., and exploitation of oil and natural gas. All activities which are permissible under these Notifications are required to obtain clearance under these Notifications. Mining of the sand, rocks and other substrata material is expected to cause damage to the Coastal environment including the Sea water intrusion.

(c) & (d): The CRZ Notification indicated in parts (a) & (b) above are uniformly applicable in CRZ areas including elevated coastal areas.

(e) & (f) : The CRZ Notification 2011 supercedes the CRZ Notification, 1991. While finalising the CRZ Notification, 2011, the inputs from various Stakeholders including the State Governments were examined for suitable incorporation.