

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1348  
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2011  
CHECK ON ILLEGAL MINING  
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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Central Empowered Committee appointed by the Supreme Court has observed that large scale illegal mining activities being carried out in the Bellary District of Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to stop the rampant illegal mining that adversely affected the livelihood of people, especially in the rural areas of the country?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The Central Empowered Committee appointed by the Supreme Court has submitted a report in four parts regarding illegal mining activities in forest areas in Bellary district of Karnataka.

The first part of the report in the writ petition (Civil) NO. 562 of 2009 filed by Samaj Parivartana Samudaya and others regarding illegal mining in forest areas in mining lease No.2010, has inter-alia observed the following

- (1) Massive illegal mining has taken place in the forest areas in ML 2010 and much beyond even the line of enjoyment observed by the Lokayukta during 2006-07 of the mining leases of S.B.Minerals, Trident Minerals, Veeyam Minerals and other leases.
- (2) The concerned officers of the state of Karnataka have actively connived with the leaseholders to facilitate continued massive illegal mining.
- (3) The illegal mining was significantly facilitated by intentional non- action on the part of the concerned officers of the Karnataka Forest department.
- (4) The lease boundaries determined by the joint survey team are totally inconsistent.
- (5) The lease renewal sketch of M/s. Muneer Enterprises used by the joint survey team for determining the lease boundaries needs a thorough investigation about its authenticity.

The second part of the report of the Central Empowered Committee in the same writ petition (Civil) NO. 562 of 2009 regarding fifteen mining leases illegally granted /being considered for grant in Ramgarh forest Blockland Swamimalai Forest Block in Sandur Range, Bellary Forest Division has inter-alia observed that there are serious illegalities and irregularities committed in grant of these mining leases with the only exception may be grant of mining lease in favour of M/s Shiva Vilas Trust.

The third part of the report of the Central Empowered Committee regarding illegal mining and encroachment in 1081.40 hectares of forest area in BHS Regions has inter-alia observed that the State of Karnataka has allowed the mining operations to continue in respect of all the mining leases wherein illegal mining and encroachments were found by the Lokayukta, Karnataka. The mining lease holders who were found to be involved in illegal mining/encroachment outside their mining lease areas should not have been allowed to continue mining and the extent of illegal mining has increased manifold.

The fourth part of the report of the Central Empowered Committee regarding illegal mining by M/s Lakshminarayana Mining Company in ML No.2487 has inter-alia observed that the Karnataka Forest Department has gone out of the way to favour M/s Lakshminarayana Mining Company by compounding the forest offence case registered against him, by not taking any action to assess the quantity of iron ore illegally extracted by him, by recommending diversion of forest land involved in illegal mining and by not taking action for violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(c) The illegal mining is dealt by the State Government under provisions of various laws, rules and regulations including Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.