

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:875
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2013
ENVIRONMENT CLEARANCE CERTIFICATES TO MINES
Naik Shri Shripad Yesso

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has withdrawn the Environment Clearance Certificates (ECCs) given to some mines in view of Shah Commission report;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to reissue ECCs to such mines?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (c): The Government has been taking necessary action against the violation of environmental norms / statutory requirements by mining units in Goa from time to time and asking the State Government authorities to take action against such units under the relevant provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (EP ACT, 1986) and the rules framed thereunder. During 2012-13, based on the inspection/monitoring conducted by the Regional Office of Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) at Bangalore, directions have been issued in respect of five units by MoEF in August and September, 2012 under section 5 of the EP Act, 1986 for closure of mines.

The MoEF has issued Show Cause Notices on 11.9.2012 to 49 mines in Goa which were inspected by the Regional Office of the MoEF at Bangalore and the inspection report revealed that dump mining has been found to have taken place, and the conditions of the environmental clearance have been violated.

Further, to the above, the MoEF has also issued directions under section 5 of the EP Act, 1986 keeping in abeyance the environment clearances in respect of 139 mine leases in Goa on 14.9.2012. The project proponent concerned for each of these 139 mines have been asked to submit relevant documents to MoEF so as to verify the legality of the environment clearance granted under which the mine has been operating.