

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:60
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2014
ILLEGAL MINING IN WESTERN GHATS
Shetti Shri Raju alias Devappa Anna

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

- (a) whether illegal mining is rampant in the Western Ghats and if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Maharashtra;
- (b) whether various organizations including the public representatives have represented to the Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any action has been taken against mine owners involved in illegal mining in the Western Ghats including Maharashtra and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save the Western Ghats from illegal mining operations?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE) (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 60 FOR ANSWER ON 09.07.2014 REGARDING "ILLEGAL MINING IN WESTERN GHATS".

(a) and (b): The State Government of Maharashtra has informed it has received representation from the Members of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly with regard to illegal mining in Kolhapur District. Kerala Government has received complaints of illegal rock quarrying.

(c): Maharashtra Government has taken action against one M/s Swati Minerals for illegal transport of bauxite ore after the cancellation of their environment clearance and has lodged FIR against the company.

(d) The projects relating to mining of minerals require prior environment clearance under the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, as amended. Further, with a view to providing protection to Western Ghats and maintaining its environmental integrity, this Ministry has issued directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 on 13.11.2013 stating therein the categories of new and / or expansion projects / activities, including mining, quarrying and sand mining, which would not be considered for granting environment clearance in the ecologically sensitive area, as identified in the Report of the High Level Working Group on Western Ghats submitted to the Ministry in April, 2013.