

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4959

ANSWERED ON:13.08.2014

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE FOR MINING

Gaddigoudar Shri Parvatagouda Chandanagouda;Ranjan (Pappu Yadav) Shri Rajesh;Ranjan Smt. Ranjeet

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the alleged violation of norms while granting environmental clearance for mining in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether clearance for resuming mining has been accorded by the Government for some companies in Karnataka;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and whether the environmental aspects and the reclamation and rehabilitation plans have been taken care of; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the corrective action taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has observed violations by mining companies in respect of enhancement of production without prior environmental clearance and not obtaining environmental clearance during renewal stage of mining lease. During the year 2013-14 and 2014-15 (up to 30.06.2014), the MoEF&CC has issued directions to various State Governments for filing complaints under Section 15/19 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 in Competent Courts of Law in case of 238 mining projects for violation of the provisions under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(c) to (e) The Ministry grants environmental clearance to the mining projects as listed in schedule to the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, as amended, under "Mining of Minerals". As per this Notification, the projects of mining of with mining lease area equal to or greater than 50 ha are handled at the level of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change for grant of EC. The projects with mining lease area less than 50 ha are handled by the respective State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA). The conditions for implementation of rehabilitation and reclamation plans are inter-alia stipulated while granting environmental clearance and Regional Offices of this Ministry carryout monitoring of the implementation of these conditions. Non-compliance of environment conditions by projects attract the legal provisions under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. This Ministry has not granted environmental clearance to any mining project in Karnataka State during 2013 and 2014.