

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2713  
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2014  
BAN ON MINING  
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

**Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has put a ban on mining activities in many States through the process of Public Interest Litigation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/ UT-wise during the last three years;
- (c) whether the mining sector has been affected due to ban on mining activities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the corrective steps taken in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES, STEEL AND LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a) and (b): As per available information, the States where the Supreme Court put a ban on mining activities through the process of Public Interest Litigation during the last three years is as follows:

i) Karnataka: Supreme Court vide judgment dated 18.4.2013 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 562 of 2009 inter-alia directed to cancel 51 iron ore mines in the State of Karnataka and capped iron ore production to 30 million metric tonne per annum from the districts of Bellary, Chitradurg and Tumkur. Government of Karnataka has cancelled 51 mines on 12.9.2013;

ii) Goa: Supreme Court vide interim order dated 05.10.2012 in Writ petition (Civil) No. 435 of 2012 ordered suspension of mining activities in the State of Goa. Subsequently, the Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 21.04.2014 inter-alia permitted mining activities subject to overall capping of production of 20 million metric tonne per annum and subject to other conditions;

iii) Odisha: Supreme Court vide interim order dated 16.05.2014 in Writ petition (Civil) No. 114 of 2014 inter-alia ordered suspension of 26 mines of iron and manganese ores in the State of Odisha; and

iv) Western Ghats: Supreme Court vide order dated 02.11.2012 in an Interlocutory Application in Writ Petition No. 562/2009 and other connected matters inter-alia directed that no mining operations of any kind in the Western Ghats is to be countenanced.

(c) and (d): As per information available, details of the production of iron ore during the last five years is given below:

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Production		(P)	(P)		
(in million tonnes)	218.55	207.15	169.58	136.02	152.06

(P): Provisional, Source: Indian Bureau of Mines

Primarily, production of iron ore is dependent on its demand and supply in the domestic and international markets. Suspension of iron ore mining operations in the States of Goa, Karnataka and Odisha by the Supreme Court has also contributed in the decline of iron ore production during this period. The Central Government and State Governments take appropriate action in compliance with the orders of the Supreme Court.