

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2723
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2014
ILLEGAL MINING IN ARAVALI REGION
Chaudhary Shri P.P.

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

- (a) whether illegal mining is taking place in the Aravali mountain region leading to degradation of the environment;
- (b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to save the Aravali mountain region;
- (c) whether the Government is also considering to carry out plantation at the said region;
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): The enforcement of various legal provisions with a view to containing the menace of illegal mining of minerals is largely in the domain of the State Governments. The projects of mining of minerals require prior environmental clearance as per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, as amended from time to time, notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified the Aravali Notification on 7.05.1992 which was amended 29.05.1999. The provisions of Notification inter-alia prohibits the operation of new mining activities including renewals of mining lease; existing mining leases in sanctuaries/national Park and areas covered under Project Tiger; cutting of trees; Construction of any clusters of dwelling units, farms houses, sheds, community centres, information centres and any other activity connected with such construction (including roads a part of any infrastructure relating thereto; electrification (laying of new transmission lines).

The MoEF&CC has delegated the powers to State Governments to take measures for protecting and improving the quality of the environment and preventing, controlling and abating environmental pollution. The State Governments of Haryana and Rajasthan have been directed to constitute an Expert Committee and Monitoring Committee, under the chairmanship of the District Collector concerned. Further, the District Collectors of Gurgaon in Haryana and Alwar in Rajasthan have been authorised by the respective State Governments to take necessary action under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 in respect of cases where the project proponents fail to implement the conditions.