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Title: Issue regarding Government's stringent Granite Policy for Granite Industry.

SHRI P. SRINIVASA REDDY (KHAMMAM): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to bring an important issue to the notice of the Government that more than 500 granite cutting and polishing industries and 255 tile cutting and polishing industries, which are major source of employment providers in the unorganized sector, in my constituency, Khammam in the State of Telangana, are on the verge of closure due to the Government's stringent Granite Policy for Granite Industry and 95 per cent of its leases and mineral deposits, whose area is less than five hectares.

As per the Granite Policy, Approved Mining Plan, CFE and CFO from the Pollution Board and Environmental Clearance from MoEF are necessary. But the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India has given a clarification through its OM No. J 11013 dated 4th February, 2013, that the mining projects of major minerals of the size of the lease area less than five hectares will not be under the purview of the Supreme Court Order. Hence, there is no need for getting prior environmental clearance for the mining process.

Nowadays, the granite industry is using a sophisticated technology which facilitates for 'no sound pollution' and 'no dust/air pollution', and hence, the granite industry has become pollution free industry.

Due to stringent rules, the small-scale granite cutting and polishing industries are forced to stop their activities, and more than five lakh skilled and unskilled workers will be affected in the State of Telangana. More particularly, 80 per cent small-scale industry of cutting and polishing in India is concentrated in my constituency, Khammam.

I would, therefore, appeal to the Government for implementing the MoEF Order in letter and spirit, and also exempt the granite quarries from environmental clearances for leases of mines and minerals whose area is less than five hectares.

Thank you.