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Title: Need to declare granite quarrying activity as an Industry.

SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY (KRISHNA GIRI): The granite quarrying business has been discovered by individual entrepreneurs about two decades ago and they developed on their own to produce and market the granite blocks at international level without any financial assistance from State or Central Government.

The granite is available only in remote villages and at interior places. There is not a single project report available about the viability of quarry industry. The success of quarry is purely based on their luck. If the quarry owner is able to identify 10 quarries and operates all, he may be successful in one or two quarries only. For this achievement he has to invest huge amount of his own and has to fight with nature and also with the changing Government policies. At present, this industry is facing problems because of the different policies of different State Governments.

This is the only industry which gives employment for 10 lakh illiterates at their local areas throughout the country. Granite fetches revenue around Rs.1500 crore per annum to the Government in foreign exchange.

Hence, I request the Government of India to consider the following facts:

1. The quarry activity should be declared as an industry.
2. The hundred per cent EOU status should be given to the industry to upgrade the technologies and to make available the products at international standard.
3. To regulate a uniform policy throughout the country without any pre-condition.
4. Incentives and financial assistance should be offered for quarry surveying and related activities as offered to food processing industry.

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