

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2157
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010
MINING OF LIME STONE
Veljibhai Jat Poonamben

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

- (a) whether the mining of lime stone and other similar minerals is prohibited within the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) area;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the ban is also applicable to those mining leases which were granted before 1991;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government proposed to amend the CRZ Notification based on the recommendation made by the Prof. Swaminathan Committee;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (g) whether some State Governments have requested to allow the mining activities in the CRZ areas subject to strict compliance of environmental protection measures and also based on the technical studies; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof and the decisions taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

- (a) & (b) : The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991 prohibits mining of sands, rocks, and other substrata material except rare minerals like, monazite, rutile etc., and exploitation of oil and natural gas.
- (c) & (d) : All activities which are permissible under the CRZ Notification, 1991 are required to obtain clearance under the said notification.
- (e) & (f) : The Government has initiated steps to implement the recommendations made by Prof. M. S. Swaminathan Committee in its report "Final Frontier" dated 16.7.2009 for strengthening of the CRZ Notification, 1991. The steps include drafting of a Sustainable Coastal Zone Protection Notification with an objective to protect the livelihood of local communities and promoting sustainable development in the coast.
- (g) : A proposal has been received from Government of Gujarat requesting amendment to the CRZ Notification, 1991 for permitting mining of limestone and other minerals in the CRZ area.
- (h) : The amendment to the CRZ Notification, 1991 will be based on the recommendations made by the Prof. M. S. Swaminathan Committee Report dated 16.7.2009 including the activities relating to mining and the outcome of the consultation process that the Ministry has been holding with the local communities of the coastal areas for the last four months.