

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:178
ANSWERED ON:09.07.2014
ILLEGAL MINING IN GOA
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether Justice Shah Commission had recommended banning of mining activities in Goa and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Hon`ble Supreme Court in a recent judgment has partially lifted the ban on mining in Goa;
- (c) if so, whether the Government proposes to review the matter of mining in Goa afresh from the environmental angle; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and time by which a new mining policy is likely to be formulated and implemented?

Answer

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

- (a) Justice Shah Commission enquiry report about illegal mining of iron ore and manganese ore in Goa State have pointed out various irregularities in mining activities in the State and have made appropriate recommendations to the Government for taking necessary action.
- (b) The Supreme Court, vide order dated 21.04.2014 in W.P. (C) 435 of 2012, has inter alia directed that mining leases which have availed deemed extension of 20 years and their extension period got over by 22.11.2007 are illegal and the State Government may grant leases as per legal provisions; Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to issue notification of Ecologically Sensitive Zones around Protected Areas in Goa within six months; Expert Committee to submit its report within six months on mining dumps and submit final report within twelve months on cap; and until final report is submitted by Expert Committee, a maximum annual excavation of 20 million MT is permitted.
- (c) & (d) Pursuant to aforesaid Supreme Court order dated 21.04.2014, the matter is being examined in consultation with the Ministry Mines and State Government of Goa.