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Title: Need to check illegal diamond trade in Mahabubnagar and Kurnool districts.

SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY (CHEVELLA): Not all minerals and gems have to be mined. In Mahabubnagar District, Telangana and Kurnool District of Rayalaseema, diamonds are frequently found on soil surface in the fields after ploughing. The historic Golconda mines known for famous Kohinoor Diamonds is here. Diamonds are also gathered in forest streams here.

Illegal Diamond trade flourishes in this area. Some traders and anti-social elements who use muscle and guns, control this trade. They pay a pittance to the farmers, take away the diamonds and reap huge profit. Both these districts are drought prone and the farmers are very poor.

NMDC in contrast runs a fully mechanized mine where the diamond production is falling, it contributes less than 1% to NMDC and whose profitability is unknown.

If the Mines Ministry buys the surface diamonds or pays a finders fee to these farmers, it will curb the illegal trade, help the farmers make some money, reduce violence against farmers, make NMDC Diamond business more profitable. I request the Ministry to consider this suggestion.