

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 13.07.2009**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**ILLEGAL MINING AT OBULAPURAM IN A.P .**

123

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDEY

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

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(a) whether Government has issued a directive to Andhra Pradesh Government to stop mining at Obulapuram mines in that State;

(b) if so, when such order was issued and the details of that order;

(c) whether the Ministry is aware that in spite of its directive, mining activity at Obulapuram is still going on in connivance with the officials and politicians in the State; and

(d) what immediate action the Ministry is proposing to take to stop illegal mining at Obulapuram?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) (b)(c)&(d)A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

THE STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 123 BY SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY AND SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA REGARDING "ILLEGAL MINING AT OBULAPURAM IN A.P" DUE FOR REPLY ON 13.07.2009.

(a)to(d)The Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI) submitted a complaint alleging that large scale illegal mining was being undertaken by M/s Obulapuram Mining Company (P) Limited in violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

2.On receipt of this complaint, the Central Government directed the Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Southern Regional Office, Bangalore to get the site inspected. The inspection report was examined through the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) constituted by the Central Government under Section 3 of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. The FAC noted, as per the inspection report that the mining area was not found to be properly demarcated on ground. Further, the safety zones around the mining areas were also absent. Therefore, the inspection of these areas could not ascertain whether the mining is restricted to the approved area or otherwise.

3.The Committee also considered the views and advice of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) that it would be appropriate to get the demarcation done through Survey of India and in the meanwhile no mining be allowed.

4.After detailed discussion, the FAC recommended that the prior approvals accorded by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to the concerned five mines viz. Anantpur Mining Corporation, Bellary Iron Ore Private limited, M/s Obulapuram Mining Company Pvt. Ltd(25.98 ha.), M/s Obulapuram Mining Company Pvt. Ltd (39.5 ha) and M/s Y. Mahabaleswarappa & Sons be kept in suspension till demarcation is completed by the Survey of India and proper boundaries and Safety Zones are provided to these mines on ground.

5.Accordingly, the Central Government kept the approval conveyed to these mines under suspension vide this Ministry's letter dated 22nd April, 2009 with immediate effect till demarcation of these areas including that of safety zones is completed by the Survey of India. However, on the request of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh vide letter dated 28.04.09, the said suspension had been kept in abeyance.

6.In response to a petition filed by one of the mine owners in the Supreme Court requesting for fixation of time period for the said survey by the Survey of India, the Central Government is getting the survey

completed through Survey of India within six weeks. The Andhra Pradesh Geo-Spatial Data Centre , Survey of India, Hyderabad is conducting survey to demarcate the boundaries of the five involved mines in Anantpur Forest Division in Andhra Pradesh. The State Government has been requested to stop mining operation in these mines during the field survey (in case required by the survey party).