

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 617
ANSWERED ON 12.12.2022

ILLEGAL LIMESTONE MINING IN JAINTIA HILLS OF MEGHALAYA

617. SHRI RAKESH SINHA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether mining of limestone in Jaintia Hills in the State of Meghalaya has adverse impact on environment and is responsible for increased pollution;
- (b) the details of cement companies which have been given licence for the mining of limestone in Jaintia Hills;
- (c) their authorised quota for mining of limestone;
- (d) whether companies are indulging in illegal mining which is a reason for discontentment among the local people; and
- (e) the steps being taken to stop illegal mining of limestone in Jaintia Hills?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINES, COAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a): As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, 18 Limestone mining projects in Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya have been accorded environmental clearance by MoEF&CC and SEIAA. Monitoring of these projects is being conducted by Integrated Regional Office, Shillong of MoEF&CC and it is observed that the Ambient Air Quality Levels, Stack Emission Levels, Fugitive Emission Levels, Ambient Noise Levels and water quality data of these projects fall within the permissible limits as per CPCB norms.

(b) & (c): As per the information provided by the State Government of Meghalaya, the details of companies that have been given licenses for mining of limestone in Jaintia Hills along with their approved production per annum are given at Annexure-I.

(d) & (e): Section 23C of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (MMDR Act) 1957, empowers the State Governments to frame rules to prevent illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals and for the purposes connected therewith. Hence, control of illegal mining comes under the legislative and administrative purview of the State Governments.

Further, as per the information provided by the State Government of Meghalaya, the State Government has introduced Meghalaya Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2016 and The Meghalaya Mineral (Prevention of Illegal mining, Transportation and Storage) Rule, 2022 to curb illegal mining in the State.

ANNEXURE-I**MINING LEASES OF LIMESTONE IN JAINTIA HILLS OF MEGHALAYA**

Sl.No.	Minerals	Name of Lessee	Approved Production Per Annum in Metric Tonne
1	LIMESTONE	Meghalaya Minerals & Mines Pvt. Ltd.	36000
2	LIMESTONE/ SANDSTONE	Star Cement Limited	81848.128
3	LIMESTONE	Meghalaya Cement Ltd.	227299.2
4	LIMESTONE /SANDSTONE	Star Cement Limited	359019.93
5	LIMESTONE	Star Cement Limited	120720.556
6	LIMESTONE	Meghalaya Cement Ltd.	82425.2
7	LIMESTONE	M/s Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited.	209586
8	LIMESTONE	M/s Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited.	22592.654
9	LIMESTONE	M/S JUD CEMENT LTD.	Suspended by Indian Bureau of Mines
10	LIMESTONE	M/s Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited.	82779.8
11	LIMESTONE	M/s Hills Cement Ltd.	226832
12	LIMESTONE	M/s Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited.	25378.4
13	LIMESTONE	M/s Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited.	1644107
14	LIMESTONE	Star Cement Ltd.	38702.25
15	LIMESTONE	Star Cement Ltd.	949824.4
16	LIMESTONE	Meghalaya Cement Ltd.	1173504
17	LIMESTONE/ SHALE	M/s Cosmos Cement Ltd.	73624.55
18	LIMESTONE	M/s Green Valley Industries Ltd.	165456.6
19	LIMESTONE/ SHALE	M/s Star Cement Limited	1557058.026
20	LIMESTONE/ SHALE	M/s Star Cement Meghalaya Limited	155806.41
21	LIMESTONE	M/s Cement International Limited	113911.6
