

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.944**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.11.2016

**Ban on Coal Mining**

944. SHRI VINCENT H. PALA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of ban on coal mining in the State of Meghalaya by the National Green Tribunal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has filed a counter Affidavit in the Court of NGT and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether the Government plans to frame special guidelines for mining of Coal in Tribal and Sixth Schedule Areas and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) The National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench at New Delhi vide Order dated 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 in Original Application No.73/2014 in the matter of 'All Dimasa Students Union Dima Hasao Dist. Committee Vs State of Meghalaya & Others', has directed to stop the rat hole mining /illegal mining of coal throughout the State of Meghalaya.
- (c) Pursuant to the Orders dated 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016 of the NGT, report of National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur and subsequent deliberations by the Committee constituted by the NGT, this Ministry has filed a counter affidavit.
- (d) No such guidelines are under formulation in this Ministry. However, the Ministry of Coal have informed that a proposal has been submitted by the Government of Meghalaya to amend certain provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and rescinding the application of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 through a Presidential Notification under Paragraph 12A(b) of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

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