

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 562**  
ANSWERED ON 06.12.2023

**SAFETY DISTANCE FROM STONE QUARRIES**

562. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the implementation of the April 2023 National Green Tribunal expert committee recommendation of a safety distance of 150 metres between stone quarries and residential/inhabited areas can potentially shut down a substantial amount of quarries in Kerala;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has prepared a strategy to relocate the affected quarries to protect local livelihoods in Kerala; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): As per the information provided by the Government of Kerala, in the State of Kerala, existing laws permit quarrying operations at a distance of 50 meters from residential buildings and other structures. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) while considering O.A. No. 304/2019 (in interim order dated 21.07.2020) accepted the report of Central Pollution Control Board dated 09.07.2020 that a minimum distance of 100 meters shall be maintained when blasting is not involved and 200 meters when blasting is involved and passed directions accordingly. However, the Hon`ble High Court of Kerala has permitted the existing quarries to continue operations. The Department of Mining and Geology of Kerala is processing fresh applications only after obtaining necessary affidavits from the proponents that in the event of any adverse orders from the NGT, the same will be abided by them without objection.

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