

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2896**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2022

**Mining in Forest Reserved Areas**

2896: SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL

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

- (a) whether the Government has made any provisions for States regarding mining of mineral available in forest land and reserved forest area and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government of Rajasthan has forwarded any proposal for mining etc. works in Beri Ganga reserved forest area in Jodhpur district and other reserved forest areas of Rajasthan and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has banned mining activities in reserved forest area located in Beri Ganga, Jodhpur and if so, the proposed plans of the Government regarding conservation of said reserved forest area, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a)& (b) Extraction of minerals from/beneath the Earth's surface is an important site-specific activity regulated under various Acts viz. Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, as amended through grant of mining leases, or allocation of areas acquired under Coal Bearing Area Act, Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules under the Oil Field (Regulation and Development) Act 1954. Mining, including open cast and underground mining, removal of boulders, bajri, stones, sand etc. from/in the river beds, are non-forestry activity and if any mining lease/project involves forest land/ Reserve Forest as defined by the Apex court in its order of 12.12.1996, prior approval of the Central Government is required under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and rules made there under.

Further, as per the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 04.08.2006 in the Writ Petition (C) no. 202/1995 the permission for mining can not be granted inside any National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary.

No such proposal from the Government of Rajasthan has been received by the Central Government for mining works in the Beri Ganga forest area in Jodhpur district. Further, the approval of diversion proposals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is a continuous process. As on date no mining proposal pertaining to other reserved forest areas of Rajasthan is pending with the Central Government.

- (c) As per the information provided by the Government of Rajasthan, illegal mining activity is prohibited in the Beriganga Forest area as per the provisions laid under Section 3 of the Rajasthan State Forest Act, 1953. Moreover, the protection and conservation of Beriganga forest area and action against the illegal miners are undertaken by the State Forest Department.

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