

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 229
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2025

Illegal Mining in Aravali area of Rajasthan

229. SHRI MURARI LAL MEENA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that illegal mining in Aravalli area of Rajasthan is causing huge loss to ecological system, effecting vegetation, wildlife and ground water level and if so, the details thereof ;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any special steps to rejuvenate and maintain environmental balance of Aravalli area to control illegal mining and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of cases of illegal mining reported during the last five years, district-wise, including Dausa Lok Sabha Constituency of Rajasthan;
- (d) whether the Government is considering to implement any new scheme or policy for ecological conservation, stringent measures against illegal mining and awareness amongst local community in Aravalli area; and
- (e) if so, the complete details thereof and likely time line for the same?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e): Mining processes and operations in all the areas including Aravalli area of Rajasthan are regulated under EIA notification, 2006 as amended.

The Government has mandated prior Environmental Clearance (EC) under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 as amended to regulate mining activities and ensure environmental safeguards. For projects falling under Category 'B', the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) appraises proposals based on the recommendations of the State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC). The standard procedure includes four stages: screening, scoping, public consultation, and appraisal.

Illegal mining is defined in Mineral Concession Rules, 2016 notified under Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation Act), MMDR Act, 1957 by Ministry of Mines. In terms of section 15 and Section 23C of the MMDR Act, the power to regulate, monitor, and prevent illegal mining of minor minerals, including sand, rests with the respective State Governments.

As per the information provided by the Directorate of Mines and Geology, Government of Rajasthan, a number of stringent measures have been undertaken to curb illegal mining and to maintain ecological balance in the Aravalli area. The State Government has implemented a multifaceted strategy to prevent illegal mining, transportation, and storage of minerals. Key measures include deploying Border Home Guards at mineral offices, mandating GPS and RFID tags for mineral transport vehicles, amending the Rajasthan Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2017 to strengthen regulatory oversight. District-level monitoring committees have been established to promote sustainable mining and environmental protection. To address the demand of sand/bajri, State Govt. has formulated the M-Sand Policy 2024. Automation of weighing stations is under process.

Auctioning of mineral plots both major and minor is being continuously undertaken by the State Govt. Data analysis team has been established in the Directorate to prevent misuse of online systems. Six State-level vigilance teams have been formed at the Directorate level to investigate illegal mining complaints. To prevent unauthorized access to mining sites, the Government has introduced geofencing for both legal mining lease areas and known illegal mining sites. This technology creates virtual boundaries, allowing authorities to monitor and control vehicle entry.

The details provided by State Directorate of Mines and Geology, Rajasthan with respect to steps taken to prevent illegal mining/transportation/storage and action taken in Aravalli districts including that of district Dausa is given at **Annexure I**.

The Aravalli Landscape Restoration i.e. Aravalli Green Wall Project, aims to follow an integrated landscape approach in eco-restoration, focusing on improving the overall ecology of the landscape. The initial priority has been given to the eco-restoration of degraded forest area. Based on the extent of ongoing programs/schemes of the Central and State Governments, the initiative is being taken up in the convergence mode with budgetary support from ongoing schemes/programs i.e. Green India Mission, Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), State Plan, Externally Aided Project etc. The State Forest Department is the nodal agency for ensuring convergence and smooth implementation of eco-restoration activities. The restoration of the buffer area would be taken through an integrated landscape approach. The community would be at the centre of these initiatives envisaged to be carried out till 2034, playing a critical role in every stage of the restoration interventions.

Details provided by State Directorate of Mines and Geology, Rajasthan with respect to steps taken to prevent illegal mining/transportation/storage and action taken in Aravalli districts.

I. Provisions made for prevention of illegal mining/transportation/storage:-

1. Regarding penalty in relation to illegal mining, provisions have been made under Section 21 of MMDR Act, 1957, in which:-
 - (1) Sub-section (1) provides for imprisonment up to five years and penalty up to Rs. 5 lakh per hectare for violation of sub-section (1) and (1A) of Section 4.
 - (2) Sub-section (2) provides for imprisonment up to two years or penalty up to Rs. 5 lakh or both for violation of rules made under the provisions of MMDR Act, 1957.
 - (3) Sub-section (4) provides for seizure of vehicle and mineral used in illegal mining/export and sub-section (5) provides for recovery of the price of mineral.
2. Rule 54 (3) of Rajasthan Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2017 also provides for imprisonment up to five years and penalty up to Rs 5 lakh per hectare.
3. If illegal mining is found in khatedari lands, provisions have been made to take action against the khatedar as per rules and cancel the khatedari.
4. There are provisions for action against illegal mining in forest lands to be taken by the Forest Department.
5. Provisions have been made to cancel allotment and take action if illegal mining is found on allotted land by autonomous institutions / industrial institutions etc.

II. Steps taken to stop illegal mining/transportation/storage in the Rajasthan State

1. Border Home Guards have been employed in all mineral offices to curb illegal mining in the state. Apart from this, RAC (Rajasthan Armed Constabulary) is also used as per requirement.
2. By installing GPS and RFID tags in every mineral vehicle, standard operating procedures were made for effective control over the export of mineral vehicles and all offices were informed. Rajasthan Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2017 have also been amended by the Government by issuing a notification dated 03.01.2025.
3. Keeping in view the mineral development in the state, a district level "Mineral Development, Environmental Protection and Illegal Mining" monitoring committee has been constituted by the Government vide order dated 23.01.2025 to resolve the practical problems of legal mining and to promote environmentally friendly mining and to prevent illegal mining.
4. M-Sand Policy 2024 has been announced by the State Government to reduce the gap between demand and supply of mineral gravel, so that illegal mining of mineral gravel can be curbed.
5. Auction proceedings are being carried out continuously by creating plots of mineral gravel and other major / minor minerals.
6. By forming a "Data Analysis Team" at the Directorate level, regular investigation is done to prevent misuse in the departmental online system. So that the misuse of Ravana can be curbed.
7. 06 state level teams of vigilance officers / employees have been formed at the Directorate level. They are sent for investigation on receipt of complaints of illegal mining at any time and place, and action is being taken as per rules.
8. Provision has been made for geofencing of mining lease areas and illegal mining sites so that effective control can be done on the entry of vehicles into the area.
9. The process of automating the weighing machines is under process.

III. Action against Illegal Mining/Transportation/Stock in Aravali Districts in last five years (From Year 2020-21 to 2025-26 up to 15-07-2025)

All figures are as per Department of Mines and Geology Online Management System (DMGOMS):

| Sr. No. | District | Action Detail | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 (Upto 15-07-25) | TOTAL |
|---------|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Kotputli-Bahrod | Total Cases(Min./Trans./Stock) | 117 | 51 | 146 | 243 | 157 | 88 | 802 |
| | | no. of Illegal Mining Cases | 12 | 3 | 6 | 24 | 10 | 1 | 56 |
| | | F I R Lodged | 6 | 0 | 26 | 7 | 15 | 14 | 68 |
| | | Seized Vehicles/Machines | 115 | 51 | 144 | 214 | 158 | 44 | 726 |
| | | Recovered Penalty (In Crore) | 0.50 | 0.24 | 0.78 | 1.84 | 0.95 | 0.10 | 4.4166 |
| 2 | Sikar | Total Cases(Min./Trans./Stock) | 207 | 96 | 208 | 231 | 90 | 23 | 855 |
| | | no. of Illegal Mining Cases | 5 | 2 | 4 | 16 | 3 | 0 | 30 |
| | | F I R Lodged | 0 | 3 | 27 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 44 |
| | | Seized Vehicles/Machines | 188 | 95 | 208 | 206 | 88 | 24 | 809 |
| | | Recovered Penalty (In Crore) | 2.01 | 0.93 | 1.61 | 2.54 | 0.44 | 0.17 | 7.6962 |
| 3 | Alwar | Total Cases(Min./Trans./Stock) | 258 | 218 | 406 | 304 | 235 | 59 | 1480 |
| | | no. of Illegal Mining Cases | 26 | 10 | 26 | 35 | 20 | 6 | 123 |
| | | F I R Lodged | 37 | 37 | 166 | 58 | 29 | 10 | 337 |
| | | Seized Vehicles/Machines | 238 | 245 | 402 | 279 | 238 | 62 | 1464 |
| | | Recovered Penalty (In Crore) | 3.13 | 1.93 | 2.82 | 2.34 | 0.71 | 0.22 | 11.152 |
| 4 | Jhunjhunu | Total Cases(Min./Trans./Stock) | 140 | 112 | 144 | 170 | 130 | 56 | 752 |
| | | no. of Illegal Mining Cases | 11 | 4 | 14 | 30 | 16 | 1 | 76 |
| | | F I R Lodged | 2 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 26 |

| Sr. No. | District | Action Detail | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 (Upto 15-07-25) | TOTAL |
|---------|------------------|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------------|--------|
| | | Seized Vehicles/Machines | 139 | 108 | 138 | 145 | 123 | 53 | 706 |
| | | Recovered Penalty (In Crore) | 1.00 | 0.89 | 1.12 | 1.07 | 0.85 | 0.43 | 5.3536 |
| 5 | Tonk | Total Cases(Min./Trans./Stock) | 237 | 716 | 734 | 506 | 397 | 193 | 2783 |
| | | no. of Illegal Mining Cases | 14 | 10 | 7 | 24 | 2 | 4 | 61 |
| | | F I R Lodged | 13 | 460 | 1 | 30 | 4 | 2 | 510 |
| | | Seized Vehicles/Machines | 241 | 719 | 724 | 484 | 401 | 164 | 2733 |
| | | Recovered Penalty (In Crore) | 0.95 | 2.81 | 2.17 | 18.84 | 0.93 | 0.24 | 25.937 |
| 6 | Dausa | Total Cases(Min./Trans./Stock) | 179 | 76 | 133 | 104 | 158 | 55 | 705 |
| | | no. of Illegal Mining Cases | 12 | 6 | 8 | 13 | 13 | 4 | 56 |
| | | F I R Lodged | 19 | 2 | 19 | 21 | 13 | 12 | 86 |
| | | Seized Vehicles/Machines | 180 | 72 | 133 | 86 | 155 | 52 | 678 |
| | | Recovered Penalty (In Crore) | 0.71 | 0.69 | 0.69 | 0.60 | 1.00 | 0.33 | 4.0188 |
| 7 | Khairthal-Tizara | Total Cases(Min./Trans./Stock) | 4 | 8 | 17 | 16 | 12 | 0 | 57 |
| | | no. of Illegal Mining Cases | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| | | F I R Lodged | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| | | Seized Vehicles/Machines | 4 | 8 | 20 | 15 | 12 | 0 | 59 |
| | | Recovered Penalty (In Crore) | 0.03 | 0.07 | 0.12 | 0.14 | 0.10 | 0.00 | 0.46 |
| 8 | Ajmer | Total Cases(Min./Trans./Stock) | 190 | 177 | 266 | 314 | 356 | 105 | 1408 |
| | | no. of Illegal Mining Cases | 20 | 17 | 12 | 44 | 65 | 13 | 171 |
| | | F I R Lodged | 20 | 10 | 22 | 17 | 21 | 25 | 115 |
| | | Seized Vehicles/Machines | 208 | 200 | 290 | 323 | 370 | 104 | 1495 |
| | | Recovered Penalty (In Crore) | 1.29 | 1.32 | 1.85 | 1.96 | 2.07 | 0.63 | 9.12 |

| Sr. No. | District | Action Detail | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 (Upto 15-07-25) | TOTAL |
|---------|----------|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------------|--------|
| 9 | Beawar | Total Cases(Min./Trans./Stock) | 75 | 88 | 167 | 171 | 249 | 101 | 851 |
| | | no. of Illegal Mining Cases | 6 | 9 | 6 | 23 | 33 | 7 | 84 |
| | | F I R Lodged | 5 | 4 | 19 | 10 | 19 | 26 | 83 |
| | | Seized Vehicles/Machines | 83 | 84 | 164 | 188 | 235 | 88 | 842 |
| | | Recovered Penalty (In Crore) | 0.42 | 0.54 | 0.99 | 1.32 | 1.06 | 0.43 | 4.76 |
| 10 | Sirohi | Total Cases(Min./Trans./Stock) | 210 | 177 | 208 | 206 | 191 | 55 | 1047 |
| | | no. of Illegal Mining Cases | 7 | 9 | 19 | 12 | 3 | 3 | 53 |
| | | F I R Lodged | 1 | 2 | 19 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 24 |
| | | Seized Vehicles/Machines | 199 | 163 | 196 | 195 | 185 | 55 | 993 |
| | | Recovered Penalty (In Crore) | 1.36 | 0.94 | 1.55 | 1.39 | 0.67 | 0.35 | 6.2583 |
| 11 | Udaipur | Total Cases(Min./Trans./Stock) | 356 | 249 | 211 | 228 | 262 | 173 | 1479 |
| | | no. of Illegal Mining Cases | 17 | 14 | 11 | 23 | 29 | 17 | 111 |
| | | F I R Lodged | 37 | 16 | 42 | 29 | 33 | 27 | 184 |
| | | Seized Vehicles/Machines | 423 | 262 | 224 | 230 | 263 | 175 | 1577 |
| | | Recovered Penalty (In Crore) | 4.74 | 3.11 | 1.84 | 2.89 | 2.41 | 1.51 | 16.506 |
| 12 | Salumber | Total Cases(Min./Trans./Stock) | 89 | 126 | 123 | 62 | 42 | 9 | 451 |
| | | no. of Illegal Mining Cases | 6 | 19 | 30 | 13 | 3 | 3 | 74 |
| | | F I R Lodged | 13 | 25 | 17 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 63 |
| | | Seized Vehicles/Machines | 88 | 121 | 117 | 58 | 38 | 4 | 426 |
| | | Recovered Penalty (In Crore) | 1.16 | 2.02 | 1.66 | 0.97 | 0.15 | 0.05 | 6.0002 |
| 13 | Banswara | Total Cases(Min./Trans./Stock) | 96 | 74 | 119 | 121 | 102 | 68 | 580 |
| | | no. of Illegal Mining Cases | 6 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 43 |

| Sr. No. | District | Action Detail | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 (Upto 15-07-25) | TOTAL |
|---------|------------|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------------|--------|
| | | F I R Lodged | 15 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 6 | 2 | 44 |
| | | Seized Vehicles/Machines | 90 | 66 | 90 | 112 | 108 | 68 | 534 |
| | | Recovered Penalty (In Crore) | 0.60 | 0.71 | 1.05 | 1.29 | 0.48 | 0.20 | 4.3341 |
| 14 | Pratapgarh | Total Cases(Min./Trans./Stock) | 56 | 49 | 79 | 80 | 61 | 15 | 340 |
| | | no. of Illegal Mining Cases | 4 | 0 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 2 | 36 |
| | | F I R Lodged | 0 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| | | Seized Vehicles/Machines | 54 | 46 | 75 | 76 | 64 | 13 | 328 |
| | | Recovered Penalty (In Crore) | 0.48 | 0.41 | 0.65 | 0.43 | 0.45 | 0.10 | 2.5248 |
| 15 | Dungarpur | Total Cases(Min./Trans./Stock) | 140 | 123 | 85 | 81 | 103 | 80 | 612 |
| | | no. of Illegal Mining Cases | 26 | 19 | 39 | 20 | 17 | 8 | 129 |
| | | F I R Lodged | 15 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 37 |
| | | Seized Vehicles/Machines | 122 | 117 | 63 | 64 | 102 | 75 | 543 |
| | | Recovered Penalty (In Crore) | 1.45 | 1.40 | 0.88 | 0.74 | 1.08 | 0.59 | 6.1569 |
| 16 | Bhilwara | Total Cases(Min./Trans./Stock) | 1188 | 888 | 711 | 797 | 940 | 314 | 4838 |
| | | no. of Illegal Mining Cases | 112 | 77 | 79 | 152 | 67 | 27 | 514 |
| | | F I R Lodged | 330 | 213 | 239 | 213 | 87 | 20 | 1102 |
| | | Seized Vehicles/Machines | 1131 | 941 | 660 | 707 | 978 | 314 | 4731 |
| | | Recovered Penalty (In Crore) | 13.93 | 11.88 | 8.73 | 10.39 | 9.69 | 2.99 | 57.605 |
| 17 | Rajsamand | Total Cases(Min./Trans./Stock) | 354 | 330 | 248 | 469 | 289 | 92 | 1782 |
| | | no. of Illegal Mining Cases | 41 | 34 | 41 | 47 | 39 | 6 | 208 |
| | | F I R Lodged | 13 | 14 | 39 | 136 | 4 | 14 | 220 |
| | | Seized Vehicles/Machines | 332 | 323 | 230 | 445 | 283 | 80 | 1693 |

| Sr. No. | District | Action Detail | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 (Upto 15-07-25) | TOTAL |
|---------|------------------|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------------|--------|
| | | Recovered Penalty (In Crore) | 2.68 | 2.49 | 2.06 | 3.85 | 2.38 | 0.60 | 14.053 |
| 18 | Pali | Total Cases(Min./Trans./Stock) | 468 | 533 | 381 | 395 | 326 | 141 | 2244 |
| | | no. of Illegal Mining Cases | 31 | 24 | 16 | 31 | 23 | 12 | 137 |
| | | F I R Lodged | 4 | 8 | 7 | 41 | 20 | 17 | 97 |
| | | Seized Vehicles/Machines | 450 | 527 | 380 | 379 | 336 | 127 | 2199 |
| | | Recovered Penalty (In Crore) | 5.39 | 6.89 | 4.69 | 5.15 | 3.45 | 1.12 | 26.696 |
| 19 | Jaipur | Total Cases(Min./Trans./Stock) | 813 | 955 | 993 | 747 | 526 | 227 | 4261 |
| | | no. of Illegal Mining Cases | 11 | 17 | 34 | 74 | 34 | 14 | 184 |
| | | F I R Lodged | 10 | 6 | 9 | 23 | 17 | 3 | 68 |
| | | Seized Vehicles/Machines | 815 | 948 | 1007 | 763 | 581 | 230 | 4344 |
| | | Recovered Penalty (In Crore) | 4.10 | 6.67 | 6.85 | 7.33 | 3.91 | 1.00 | 29.851 |
| 20 | Didwana-Kuchaman | Total Cases(Min./Trans./Stock) | 56 | 35 | 79 | 118 | 55 | 23 | 366 |
| | | no. of Illegal Mining Cases | 6 | 4 | 7 | 38 | 1 | 2 | 58 |
| | | F I R Lodged | 12 | 1 | 22 | 31 | 6 | 0 | 72 |
| | | Seized Vehicles/Machines | 50 | 38 | 72 | 85 | 50 | 21 | 316 |
| | | Recovered Penalty (In Crore) | 0.47 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.67 | 0.28 | 0.06 | 2.3797 |