

08.04.2005. The Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at Lucknow, on the directions of Supreme Court, carried out site inspections during the period of different mines operating in the Aravali hills and submitted a report dated 12.11.2008 to the Court. The matter is still sub-judice.

So far as areas of Aravali hills of Alwar district of Rajasthan is concerned, 626 cases of illegal mining and transportation of mineral have been registered in last two financial years. Against these cases, 608 numbers of cases were disposed off and about Rs. 13.76 lakh was realized as compensation, 5 cases were challaned in the Court of Law and rest 13 cases are pending at the Department level. It is not correct that mining mafias have been successful in carrying out illegal mining even after the Supreme Court directions. On the contrary, their activities have been restrained.

(c) In order to stop the illegal mining in the Aravali hills, the Ministry has also suitably advised the Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary (Forests), Principal Secretary (Mines & Geology) and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Government of Rajasthan. In addition, the Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at Lucknow has been directed to carry out regular monitoring of the mining leases permitted to operate in the Aravali hills.

(d) The illegal mining causes have adverse impact on the ecology, hydrology and environment of the area and also on the over all economy and health of the people living both in the area of illegal mining as well as in the surrounding areas, whereas the legal mining in forest area is permitted stipulating certain general mitigative measures such as compensatory afforestation, phased reclamation of mined area, Safety zone with afforestation and fencing and other site specific measures to reduce the adverse impact of mining on environment, ecology and inhabitants.

Community radio stations in Madhya Pradesh

†112. MISS ANUSUYIA UIKEY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has received a proposal from Madhya Pradesh Government to secure a license to set up community radio station;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal and the reasons for pendency of the proposal;

(c) By what time the license to set up a community radio station in Madhya Pradesh will be issued and the possible time thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has not received any proposal from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. However, two cases of societies/autonomous bodies functioning under the Government Departments have been received namely:

1. Vanya - A society (registered under the Madhya Pradesh Societies Registration Act 1973), functioning under the Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

2. Swaraj Sansthan Sanchalnalaya - An autonomous body functioning under the Department of Culture, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

The proposals of Vanya and Swaraj Sansthan Sanchalnalaya have been approved recently.

Sale of power by power generating units

†*113. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, under the Electricity Act, 2003, power generating units of the country are free to sell power to anyone;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these units, by taking the benefit of above legislation are selling power at high rates in the country; and

(d) if so, the maximum and minimum rates of electricity sold by them during 2009?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Under Section 10(2) of the Electricity Act 2003, "a generating company may supply electricity to any licensee in accordance with this Act and the rules and regulations made thereunder and may, subject to the regulations made under sub-section (2) of section 42, supply electricity to any consumer."

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