

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 321. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Question No. 321. ...*(Interruptions)*... No banners, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please no banners. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please do not come into the well. ...*(Interruptions)*... This will not be televised. ...*(Interruptions)*... This will not go on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am sorry. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am sorry I will have to name you. ...*(Interruptions)*... The House is adjourned till 12.00 hours.

The House then adjourned at four minutes past eleven of the clock.

The house re-assembled at twelve of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the chair

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Mineral ore dumps in Goa

*321. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has issued any orders/instructions as regards mineral ore dumps stacked near mines in Goa;
- (b) the brief contents of the order/instructions;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Goa has taken a stand that the Ministry has no powers to issue such orders/instructions; and ;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Ministry to the State Government's stand which is amply evident from the reports in the local dailies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) and (b) It came to the notice of the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) that mining from low grade ore/rejects dumps is being carried out in the State of Goa without obtaining requisite prior environment clearance. The environment clearance granted by MoEF, under the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 is based on the scope of work as envisaged at the time of obtaining environment clearance. The environment clearance granted by MoEF to the mining projects in the State of Goa did not include dump mining within their scope. As such, any change in scope of project

with respect to the scope for which environment clearance was obtained amounts to the violation of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. MoEF has asked the State Government to take necessary action to stop forthwith all such mining activities and initiate action under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Rules framed thereunder against all those projects involved in dump mining without requisite prior environment clearance.

(c) and (d) The State Government has responded stating *inter alia* that since 9.3.2012 till date, no dump mining or illegal mining has been allowed in the State. The State Government has also stated that, though they are yet to form their opinion, as per the legal opinions available with them quantity of ore sold, proposed to be sold, from the existing dumps/rejection stacks/overburden does not require fresh permission/clearance from MoEF and that no environment clearance is required while removing the mineral ore dumps, whether by the State Government or by the mining lessee. The full details of these legal opinions, including the context in which they were sought, have not been shared by the State Government with MoEF.

MoEF has issued orders to undertake detail inspection by the officials of Regional Office of the Ministry at Bangalore and Zonal Office of the Central Pollution Control Board at Bangalore to ascertain whether dump mining activity is taking place in the State of Goa.

Widening of Gurgaon-Jaipur Highway

*322. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the project cost for six lanning of NH-8 between Gurgaon-Jaipur which commenced on 3 April, 2008 and was scheduled to be completed on 2 October, 2011;
- (b) whether the original estimate was of rupees 1,896 crore in 2009, which has now escalated to rupees 3,009 crore;
- (c) how the project has been funded;
- (d) whether the project is still incomplete;
- (e) the toll amount recovered so far and the shares of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in it; and