

जयराम रमेश  
JAIRAM RAMESH



राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार)  
पर्यावरण एवं वन  
भारत सरकार  
नई दिल्ली-110003  
MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)  
ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI - 110 003

D.O. No. Z-11012/3/2009-IA.II (M)

June 1st, 2010

**Subject: Sustainable Mining of Minor Minerals**

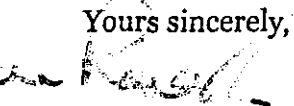
As you are aware, the mining of minor minerals has been increasing over the years and this has begun to have significant adverse impact on our ecology. Since there is currently no uniform framework to regulate the mining of minor minerals, my Ministry had constituted a Group under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests to evolve guidelines for sustainable mining of minor minerals. The group, after detailed deliberations, had finalized and submitted its report in March 2010. A copy of the report is enclosed for your kind perusal.

Some key recommendations of the group include:

- Minimum size of mine lease should be 5 ha
- Minimum period of mine lease should be 5 years
- A cluster approach to mines should be taken in case of smaller mine leases operating currently
- Mine plans should be made mandatory for minor minerals as well
- A separate corpus should be created for reclamation and rehabilitation of mined out areas
- Hydro-geological reports should be prepared for mining proposed below groundwater table
- For river bed mining, leases should be granted stretch wise, depth may be restricted to 3m / water level, whichever is less, and safety zones should be worked out
- The present classification of minerals into major and minor categories should be re-examined by the Ministry of Mines in consultation with the States

I would request you to examine the report and issue necessary instructions for incorporating the recommendations made in the report in the Mineral Concession Rules for mining of minor minerals, framed by your Government under Section 15 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,  
  
(Jairam Ramesh)

All Chief Ministers