



17.11.2022

Mr Deovrat Jha,  
Assistant Director,  
Enforcement Directorate,  
Ministry of Finance,  
Department of Revenue,  
Zonal Office Ranchi,  
Jharkhand.

By hand & email

Sir,

Sub: Investigation by Enforcement Directorate (ED) into illegal mining and the Summons dated 07.11.2022 issued to the undersigned in this regard.

Any State endowed with natural wealth is also afflicted by the curse of illegal mining and Jharkhand is no exception. The undersigned is determined to weed out illegal mining from the State of Jharkhand and welcomes any sincere and honest assistance in this regard from any Agency. However, the purpose and objectives of your Summons to the undersigned is unclear.

After the present Government assumed office in December 2019 under the leadership of the undersigned, the royalty collection from stone mining has increased from Rs. 270 crore in 2019-20 to Rs. 360 crore in 2020-21 and Rs. 382 crore in 2021-22 although mining activity was adversely affected by the COVID pandemic the last two years. Approximately 20% of this royalty from stone mining comes from Sahibganj district. However, it appears from your statements that there is an illegal mining scam in Sahibganj district of Rs.1000 crores.

To understand your allegation of loss of Rs.1000 crores to the State Exchequer due to illegal stone mining in Sahebganj district, the following facts need to be considered :-

1. Data available with the Mining Department would show that of the total quantity of stone mined in Jharkhand in the last 2 years is about 9 crores mt of which boulder is 60%, stone chips is 35% and stone dust etc is 5% . Of this 9 crores mt., approximately 20% is mined in Sahebganj.
2. On 1 mt of boulder, royalty of Rs. 95 is levied and on 1 mt of stone chip, royalty of Rs. 175 is levied. On every mt of stone dust, royalty of Rs 18 is levied.



3. Taking a weighted average, the royalty per mt of stone mined in Jharkhand would be Rs. 120 per mt.
4. In order to evade royalty of Rs.1000 crores in two years, over 8 crores mt. of stone is required to be illegally mined in Sahebganj, that is more than 4 times the legally mined quantity.
5. In order to transport over 8 crores mt of stone in two years, in excess of 20,000 Rakes or 33,00,000 trucks would be required as the capacity of each rake is about 4000 mt and each truck is about 25 mt.
6. Railways does not permit loading of rake without submission of mining / mineral challan. It appears that you have not identified loading of even a single rake without requisite challan as you have not taken action against any Railway officer.
7. You claim that approximately 6500 rakes loaded stone in Sahebganj district during the past two years. Even if all these 6500 rakes loaded only illegally mined stone which cannot be the case, they would not be sufficient to transport the total quantity of 8 crore mt of illegally mined stone which would fetch royalty of Rs.1000 crores.
8. Further, to transport 8 crore mt of illegally mined stone, 4500 trucks would be required every day for two years whereas Sahebganj has only about 800 registered trucks.
9. There are a few ghats in Sahebganj from where you claim that illegally mined stone is transported by barges.
10. However, all the rakes, trucks and barges available in Sahebganj put together could not have possibly transported 8 crores mt which is required to be illegally mined to cause a loss of Rs.1000 crores to the State Exchequer in two years.
11. Apart from the impossibility of transportation, where are the crushers and ancillary logistics like tippers etc in Sahebganj to carry out illegally mining of 4 crores mt of stone every year when legal mining is approximately 1 crore mt every year ? By no stretch of imagination can it be contended that infrastructure and logistics used for carrying out mining of 1 crore mt of legal mining can be used to carry out 4 crore mt of illegal mining.
12. As I have said earlier, the aggregate royalty income from stone mining in the entire State of Jharkhand for the last two years has been around Rs. 750 crores against which you claim that illegally mined stone in Sahebganj alone is Rs. 1000 crores.

I am sure that the above facts and figures have not been considered by you while alleging a stone mining scam of Rs.1000 crores in Sahebganj district. It does not befit the ED to make sensational statements of illegal mining of Rs. 1000 crores without ascertaining the facts and figures and that too after carrying out some 50 raids in an investigation going on for almost a year. I hope and trust that you will reconsider your claims and refrain from making sensational statements which are unsubstantiated by any facts or figures as such reckless statements not only tarnish





the reputation of the concerned State departments and personnel but the image of the State of Jharkhand suffers.

It also appears that the BJP, the main opposition party in the State has caused statements to be given by Ravi Kejriwal to falsely implicate me in illegal mining. Ravi Kejriwal was a member of JMM and the treasurer of the Party till he was removed in 2020. Subsequently, a FIR was also filed against him by JMM. Since then, Ravi Kejriwal has become my sworn enemy and I would not be surprised if he has made false allegations against me to settle personal scores.

The ED is expected to carry out its investigation in a fair and impartial manner , without any hidden agenda or motive. I have taken an oath to uphold the Constitution and the Rule of Law and in order to discharge my duties as an honest citizen of this country, I shall attend at your office today in compliance with the Summons issued to me.

Yours faithfully,

  
[HEMANT SOREN]