

Reply to the calling attention tabled by Shri Ganesh Gaonkar, MLA

“fear and anxiety in the minds of the public over non-enforcing of the directions on fencing of illegal quarries resulting in deaths by drowning repeatedly. The owners or operators of such quarries should be held liable by the authorities. The steps the Government will take in this matter”

1. There are 74 quarry leases granted by the Directorate of Mines & Geology, of which 60 are Basalt, 12 Laterite, 1 Dolomite & 1 Bentonite. As per the lease condition, the lease holder has to barricade the lease boundary by way of fencing. In this regard a circular dated 13-6-2023 has been issued to all the lease holders so as to furnish compliance to the said condition of the lease deed (Copy enclosed). Some quarry owners have given compliance report with photographs. All the leases will be inspected by the Directorate and if there is any non-compliance the lease will be suspended.
2. With regard to illegal quarries Government has constituted a flying squad vide Order dated 29-8-2022 under Mamlatdar of respective taluka to monitor and take action against such illegalities (copy enclosed). The flying squads in different talukas have found many illegal quarries operating wherein machineries have been seized and FIRs have been filed.
3. It is proposed to instruct all the mamlatdars to make an inventory of all illegal abandoned quarries and the land owners will be held responsible for barricading such abandoned quarries and put sign boards cautioning the public.



Government of Goa
Directorate of Mines & Geology
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No.04/108/2023/MINOR/MINES / 916

Date: 3/06/2023

CIRCULAR

Sub:- Monsoon preparedness Barricading the quarrying pits/stone quarries.

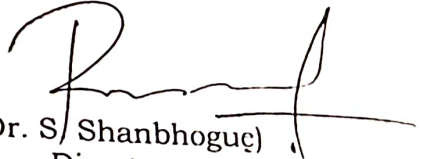
In the monsoon preparedness review meeting chaired by Collector, South Goa, held on 30/05/2023, the need for barricading the area of quarrying pits/stone quarries has been emphasized to avoid any untoward incidences.

As per the conditions mentioned in the lease deed it is the responsibility of the lessee to barricade the lease area so as to ensure safety of animals and human beings.

In view of above, all the lessees are hereby directed ensure that the lease area as per the approved plan is properly barricaded so that life of human being and animal are prevented from any untoward incidences.

Failure to adhere to these instructions will be viewed seriously and the lease holder will be held responsible for any unforeseen events.

All the lease holders are hereby directed to furnish Compliance Report within 10 days from issue of this Circular.


(Dr. S/ Shanbhogue)
Director

To,

All quarrying lease holders as per the enclosed list.

Copy for information to:

1. The Collector, North Goa District, Panaji Goa.
2. The Collector, South Goa District, Margao Goa.
3. The Superintendent of Police (North), Panaji Goa.
4. The Superintendent of Police (South), Margao Goa.
5. The Director of Environment, Dempo Towers, Panaji Goa

o/c



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No.04/83/2018/MINOR/MINES / 1134

Date: 29/08/2022

ORDER

Whereas, Hon'ble High Court of Bombay at Goa in WP No. 312/2022 has taken serious cognizance of illegal and unauthorized excavation and quarrying operations in the State of Goa.

Whereas, vide Order dated 17-8-2022 directions have been issued the Hon'ble High Court in the said matter to the undersigned to inquire into the matter.

And whereas, it is revealed that presently various departments and authorities who are empowered to look into such illegalities are acting independently and there is no coordination amongst them, which has led to delays in acting on complaints received.

And whereas, in case of sand mining, taluka level flying squads set up under Mamlatdars/Jt. Mamlatdars of respective taluka vide order No. 04/8/3/2018/Minor/ Mines/6412 dated 11/09/2018 has been found to be effective in monitoring and controlling of illegal activities in sand mining.

And whereas, in order to set up an effective enforcement mechanism for controlling illegal and unauthorized excavation and quarrying taluka-wise flying squads are hereby constituted under Mamlatdar of respective taluka consisting of the following officials:-

SR. NO	DESIGNATION
1	Mamlatdar & Executive Magistrate of respective taluka
2	Police Inspector of concerned Police Station or any Police Officer authorized by him not below the rank of Asst. Sub-Inspector
3	2 Police Constables
4	Official as authorized by the Directorate of Mines and Geology
5	Assistant Engineer or any such Officer as authorized by the Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department
6	Asst. Motor Vehicle Inspector or any such officer as authorized by the Transport Department.
7	DSLIR survey staff attached to the office of the Mamlatdar

And whereas, the standard operating procedure to be followed by the flying squad is as follows.

1. Complaints received by any Department/Offices pertaining to illegal quarrying shall be referred to the respective flying squad.
2. The flying squads shall inspect and initiate action within 48 hours of receipt of the same/intimation thereof. FIR shall be filed against the person/s found carrying illegal extraction/transportation and the respective landowners. Action taken report shall be forwarded to the Collector and District Magistrate with copy to Director of Mines.
3. The machinery, equipment and vehicles used in extraction and transportation shall be seized and kept in the custody of Police Department.
4. The PWD shall make necessary arrangement to carry the seized machinery, vehicles and other equipment to the respective police station.
5. The District level 24X 7 helpline set up for sand extraction complaints shall also be extended for receiving complaints of illegal quarrying. Proper records of complaints received by the help lines shall be maintained by the Collectors of the respective districts and the complaints shall be immediately communicated to the flying squad.
6. The Department of Mines and Geology shall compile action taken reports on a monthly basis and forward the same to Secretary Mines.

All the above directions shall be strictly followed and enforced upon.

By order and in the name of
Governor of Goa


(Puneet Kumar Goel)
Chief Secretary

To:

The Government Printing Press, Panaji for favour of publication in the official gazette

1. All the concerned Departments/Offices
2. Collector North
3. Collector South
4. Guard file
5. Office Copy