

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL AND MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:39

ANSWERED ON:19.11.2001

ILLEGAL EXTRACTION OF COAL

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**Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a large number of persons were trapped in an abandoned mine in West Bengal in the month of October this year ;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether extracting of coal illegally in coal mines of Coal India Limited(CIL) has increased in the last few years; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to check such illegal extraction of coal by mafias?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL & MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b): The incident did not occur in an abandoned mine. Illegal mining was going on under a private land beyond ECL mine boundary at Lalbandh about 15 km. from Asansol town. As the site is not under the control of ECL/CIL, it is not possible to confirm the number of persons trapped.

(c): Cases of illegal mining activities from abandoned/closed//disused mine or from outcrop regions have been reported mainly from ECL, BCCL and CCL having such activities in their coal mines in West Bengal, Bihar/Jharkhand. As the said activities are carried out stealthily/ clandestinely, it is not possible to quantify the exact number. However, the police power to initiate criminal action against illegal mining vests with the State police. Upon getting information about illegal mining the same is passed on to the concerned police authorities.

(d): The steps taken by CIL to curb/check illegal mining are as under:

- (i) Sealing off the entries of abandoned underground mines.
- (ii) Dozing off and filling up of illegal mining sites wherever possible.
- (iii) Patrolling by own security forces and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
- (iv) Intelligence collection and close liaison with District authority.
- (v) Whenever illegally mined coal and implements of illegal mining are seized during the course of raids, the same is handed over to local police and FIR lodged.