

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5183  
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2002  
ILLEGAL MINING ACTIVITIES  
M.H. AMBAREESH;PUTTASWAMY GOWDA

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

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that illegal mining activities are going on in the country particularly in the different Government owned coalfields;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; (
- (c) the estimated loss suffered as a result thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government in this regard ?

**Answer**

MINISTER FOR COAL AND MINES ( SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) &(b): Yes, Sir. Cases of illegal mining activities have been reported mainly from Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) Bharat Coking Coal Limited ( BCCL) and Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) in the States of West Bengal and Bihar/Jharkhand. The number of cases of illegal mining in which First Information Reports (FIRs) have been lodged during the last four years is as follows :-

| Company | State                       | 1998-99 | 1999-00 | 2000-01 | April 2000 to December 2001 |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------------------|
| ECL     | West Bengal/Bihar/Jharkhand | 263     | 155     | 203     | 116                         |
| BCCL    | West Bengal/Bihar/Jharkhand | 2       | 2       | 1       | 6                           |
| CCL     | Bihar/Jharkhand             | 25      | 25      | 15      | 44                          |

( c ) : Illegal mining activities are being done in the nature of clandestine extraction and pilferage of coal from abandoned/closed/disused mines or from outcrop regions. As such, the exact quantum of loss suffered cannot be specified. However, on the basis of raids conducted, the quantities of coal recovered during the last three years are given as under :-

| Company                         | 1998-99                         | 1999-2000                       | 2000-01                         |                                 |                                 |       |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|
| Quantity recovered (tonne lakh) | Approximate value (Rs. in lakh) | Quantity recovered (tonne lakh) | Approximate value (Rs. in lakh) | Quantity recovered (tonne lakh) | Approximate value (Rs. in lakh) |       |
| ECL                             | 5271                            | 42.17                           | 403                             | 3.22                            | 5636                            | 46.09 |
| BCCL                            | 2                               | 0.01                            | 1830                            | 22.87                           | 0.2                             | 0.001 |
| CCL                             | 826                             | 8.99                            | 524                             | 5.24                            | 677                             | 6.8   |

(d) : Coal India Limited has taken the following action to prevent illegal of mining in leasehold areas:-

- 1) Intelligence collection.
- 2) Dozing off/filling up of illegal mining sites wherever possible.
- 3) Erection of fencing walls in abandoned/disused openings.
- 4) Round the clock patrolling by own security force and CISF.
- 5) Surprise checks/raids by Security Force/CISF.
- 6) Whenever illegal mined coal and implements of illegal mining are seized during the course

of raids, the same are handed over to local police and FIRs lodged.

7) Closed liaison is kept with district authorities seeking their help and cooperation in curbing illegal mining.

To curb illegal mining, the Government have also taken up the matter with the coal producing states.