

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6316
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2003
ILLEGAL EXTRACTION OF COAL
RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) : whether the Government are aware of the illegal extraction of coal in Jarangdih Railway Crossing (East) and Ber mo Coal belt under the Bokaro District in Jharkhand.

(b) : if so, the facts and details thereof; (

(c) : whether these illegal extractions have resulted in subsidence and a tunnel beneath the railway line;

(d) : if so, whether the Government have conducted or propose to conduct any inquiries into the aforesaid alleged illegal extractions of coal;

(e) : if so, the details thereof; and

(f) : the steps taken to check the same?

Answer

MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA)

(a)& (b): Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) is aware of illegal extraction of coal being done in Bermo Coalbelt under Bokaro District of Jharkhand. This illegal extraction has been reported in the lease hold and acquired land in the mines under Kathara, B&K and Dhori areas. It is carried out by outsiders who enter the areas forcefully. It is a law and order problem which is tackled with active support of the State administration.

(c): Central Coalfields Limited is not aware of any incidence of subsidence beneath railway line. However, a cavity was created due to illegal mining in an old abandoned mine, over which railway line is laid, a long time back. This had long been filled up by fly ash and surrounding area has also been packed by covering it by 1 metre soil for plantation.

(d) & (e): As soon as any incidence of illegal mining comes to the notice of Central Coalfields Limited, FIRs are lodged with the police in order to prevent such illegal activity. A task force was constituted by D.C., Bokaro in meeting held with General Managers of the three areas, Dhori, B&K and Kathara; Director Mines Safety, Koderma region and senior state officials for inspection of sites of illegal mining and to suggest / recommend measures to prevent illegal mining. District Collector, Bokaro is monitoring the steps taken to prevent illegal mining by conducting regular meeting with general managers of the areas. Intensive patrolling by security / police and CISF is done to detect and prevent illegal mining activities in the said location. CCL officials in association with Director General, Mines & Safety and high level state officials keep surveillance on the sites prone to illegal mining.

(f): To thwart incidence of illegal mining, CCL takes following steps:-

1. Measures, recommended by task force after inspection of illegal mining sites, have been taken;
2. Regular patrolling by security personnel;
3. Rat holes created by illegal mining are dozed off;
4. Sealing of abandoned old workings in underground mines by erecting concrete walls on the mouth of abandoned inclines;
5. Abandoned old quarries are filled with fly ash from power houses;
6. Fencing at sites prone to illegal mining and erection of notice boards displaying danger or prohibited area;
7. Conducting surprise raids / checks.