

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1481

ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007

ILLEGAL MINING AND SMUGGLING OF COAL

Jha Shri Raghunath;Mehta Shri Bhubneshwar Prasad;Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is incurring loss of revenue due to illegal mining and smuggling of coal at various coalfields including that of the CCL colliery of Jharkhand every year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, company-wise;
- (c) whether there have been several deaths due to incidence of illegal coal minings;
- (d) if so, the number of people killed due to illegal coal mining during the last three years and the current year till date, company-wise and year-wise;
- (e) whether incidents of illegal coal mining take place as a result of negligence or connivance of officials;
- (f) if so, the action taken against the guilty officials; and
- g) the measures taken by the Government to check illegal mining/smuggling of coal to promote development and utilization of coal reserves in a planned manner for meeting the present and future coal requirement of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a)&(b): The coal is illegally mined/smuggled stealthily and clandestinely by the miscreants at different places. As such, it is not possible to specify the exact amount of coal stolen and losses incurred on account of illegal mining/smuggling of coal at various coal fields including CCL colliery of Jharkhand.

(c)&(d): Since law and order is State subject, coal companies have no data with regard to persons who died in the process of illegal coal mining.

(e)&(f): No official of Coal India Ltd.(CIL) has been found involved in the activities of illegal mining.

(g): A Committee under the Chairmanship of Minister of State for Coal has been constituted to look into the issues related to illegal mining of coal. The Committee has held two meetings so far with the representatives of Govt. of Jharkhand, Govt. of West Bengal, CIL and its subsidiaries. However, since law and order is a State subject, the coal companies maintain close liaison with State authorities to check illegal mining and consequent accidents. Ministry of Coal has requested the State Government concerned from time to time to take strong and effective measures to check illegal mining. State Government of Jharkhand and West Bengal have taken the following steps to prevent illegal mining:

Jharkhand:

- (i) Task Forces have been constituted at the State level and at the District levels.
- (ii) Representatives of coal companies are associated with it and they meet regularly.
- (iii) The State Government extends full support to deal with menace of illegal mining.

West Bengal: Task Force constituted at the State District levels.

In addition, following steps are taken by the coal companies to prevent illegal mining within their respective command areas:

- i. Rat holes created by illegal mining are being dozed off and filled up with stone and debris wherever possible;
- ii. Concrete walls have been created on the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas;
- iii. Fencing is being constructed at the various illegal mining sites along with displaying of signboards mentioning "Dangerous and Prohibited Place".
- iv. Dumping of the overburden is being done on the outcrop zones, which are not required to be mined;
- v. Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing district authorities of the same for taking preventive action;

- vi. Installation of check-post at vulnerable points to check transport documents;
- vii. Training of existing security personnel, refresher training of CISF personnel and basic training of new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security setup.