

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2475

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2008

`` ILLEGAL MINING ``

Gandhi Smt. Maneka;Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Shivanna Shri M;Verma Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that illegal mining of iron ore and other mineral is going on in the country including Aravali Hills despite the guidelines of Supreme Court;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise including Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh;
- (c) the total number of such cases identified and action taken against persons found guilty of such mining of iron ore and other minerals during the said period, State-wise including Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh;
- (d) whether the Government has any specific plan to curb and check this menace;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government is considering to bring mining from State list to Union List; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS AND MINISTRY OF MINES(SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE)

(a) As per available information, the Supreme Court of India vide interim order dated 6.5.2002 has banned mining activities in the Aravalli hills falling within a distance of 5 kms. of Delhi -Haryana boundary in Faridabad & Gurgaon districts of Haryana. Subsequently Supreme Court also has banned mining activities in Aravalli Hills vide judgment dated 16.12.2002 and judgment dated 18.3.2004 and no illegal mining is taking place in the region.

(b) to (e) 35,694 cases of illegal mining were detected during 2006, in 2007 it 37,526 cases were detected and 21,276 cases were detected upto June, 2008, of which 9730 cases pertains to State of Karnataka. Cases of illegal mining have not been reported in respect of State of Uttar Pradesh. State Governments are the owners of minerals and grant mining lease. Since the mineral rights and collection of revenue vests with the State Government, and police and law & order machinery is with the respective States, State Governments have been empowered under section 23C of the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act, 1957) to frame rules for prevention of illegal mining and transportation of minerals etc. The Central Government has further directed the State Governments to constitute Task forces at State/District level for prevention of illegal mining. Central Government also monitors the instances of illegal mining and action taken by the State Government to curb illegal mining which is reported to Indian Bureau of Mines. So far 18 States have framed rules and 21 States have constituted Task Force at State/Districts level for prevention of illegal mining, transportation of minerals etc. 2660 FIRs have been lodged and 17244 court cases have been filed in the matter, out of which 14199 cases have been decided and a total of Rs.229.96 crores has been realized as fine. State Governments have been also advised to celebrate `Pakhwara` for creating awareness amongst people against illegal mining.

(f) & (g) No, Sir. Does not arise.