

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1712
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008
ILLEGAL MINING FROM ABANDONED MINES
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the illegal miners have been digging coal from the tunnels of Central Coalfields limited that were lying abandoned since the last few years as reported in the Times of India dated 23 June,2008;
- (b) if so,the details thereof company-wise;
- (c) whether the illegal mining of coal from the area has affected the main National Highway in Ranchi;
- (d) if so, the details thereof: and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check illegal coal mining in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH HAGROIMA)

(a) & (b): In Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), sporadic incidence of extraction of coal from abandoned mines by miscreants from adjacent villages/localities are reported, from time to time.

(c) & (d): It is reported by Coal India Limited (CIL) that at Ilesagara Section in Kujua Area, PS-Kujua, District Ramgarh, illegal extraction of coal by miscreants beneath the National Highway-33 was carried out, through the openings of abandoned mines. The openings of abandoned mines have been closed several times with heavy debris with the help of dozers and dumpers in the presence of police authorities. Also, the State authorities have been requested to take immediate steps so that the menace is stopped and N.11.33 is brought out of danger.

(e) Law and order is a State subject. Hence primarily, it is the responsibility of the State-District administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop/curb illegal mining. However, the following steps are taken by coal companies to prevent illegal mining :

- i) Rat holes created by illegal mining are being dozed and filled up with stone and debris wherever possible.
- ii) Concrete walls have been erected on the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.
- iii) Regular raids/checks being conducted by security personnel and static security personnel and static security pickets including armed guards during the night hours are being deployed at pithead depots.
- iv) Surprise raids/checks being conducted jointly by security personnel and law and order authorities of the concerned State Government.
- v) Fencing is being constructed at the various illegal mining sites along with displaying of signboards mentioning 'Dangerous and Prohibited Place'.
- vi) Dumping of the overburden is being done on the outcrop/ones which are not required to be mined.
- vii) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing district authorities of the same for taking preventive action.
- viii) Installation of check-post at vulnerable points to check transport documents.
- ix) Training of existing security personnel, refresher training of CISF personnel and basic training of new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security setup.
- x) The coal companies maintain close liaison with the State authorities.
- xi) Joint Committee/Task Forces have been constituted by the State Govts. of West Bengal and Jharkhand at different level (block level, sub-divisional level, district level, State level) to monitor different aspects of illegal mining.

