

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:12
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2010
ILLEGAL OPENCAST MINING
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Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are reports of illegal open cast mining taking place in some parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of persons/companies involved in such activities during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) the details of action taken in each case during the said period, State-wise and company-wise; and
- (d) the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government to stop such opencast mining in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE)

(a) to (c) : Instances of illegal mining of minerals have come to the notice of the Government in various parts of the country including open cast mining. As per available information details of illegal mining of minerals detected by the State Governments in the last three years upto December, 2009 is given in the Annexure. Data on details of persons/ companies involved in illegal mining are not centrally maintained.

(d) : The Central Government had amended the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, to empower the State Governments to take action against illegal open cast mining by giving them powers to enter and inspect any mine, penalize transportation and storage of illegal mined minerals, confiscate illegally mined minerals, tools, equipment and vehicles, and frame separate Rules under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 for curbing illegal mining. This was followed by regular monitoring by Central Government of the action taken by the State Governments. Recently, all the State Governments have been requested to prepare an Action Plan using modern technology to curb illegal mining. Further, a Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee has been set up to ensure elimination of delays in grant of mineral concessions. A draft Model State Mineral Policy has also been circulated to all the State Governments. Separately eight Task Force teams were set up in the Indian Bureau of Mines which conducted inspections in 106 mines in endemic areas between 7.12.2009 till 17.12.2009 and suspended operations in 60 mines.

ANNEXURE

State-wise and year-wise statement of cases of illegal mining reported by the State Government

S.No.	State	Nos. of cases detected by State Governments	Action Taken by State Governments
		2006 2007 2008 2009	Vehicle FIRs Court Fine Others
		Upto Dec. seized	Lodged cases realized
		2009	filed (Rs. in Lakhs)

1	Andhra Pradesh	5385 9216 13478 11591	844 2676.39
2	Chattisgarh	2259 2352 1713 1078	2283 354.89
3	Goa	313 13 159 9	458 16.72
4	Gujarat	7435 6593 5492 5416	238 158 8 8085.70
5	Haryana	504 812 1209 1372	103 138 21 199.53
6	Himachal Pradesh	478 - 503 1114	711 21.04
7	Jharkhand	631 82 225 15	5592 205 39 108.41
8	Karnataka	3027 5180 2997 1687	44155 959 771 3900.1
9	Kerala	1595 2593 2695 1321	576.62
10	Madhya Pradesh	5050 4581 3895 3868	05 16157 1212.67
11	Maharashtra	4919 3868 5828 8270	20197 13 1541.88
12	Orissa	284 655 1059 758	1401+266 cycles 57 86 3370.3
13.	Punjab	218 26 50 73	- - 3.66
14.	Rajasthan	2359 2265 2178 4711	393 607 59 705.68
15.	Tamilnadu	2140 1263 1573 215	22650 579 421 7294.87
16.	Uttarakhand	191 - 683	38.50

17. West Bengal 80 426 315 80 3774 974 196