

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:174

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2010

ILLEGAL MINING

Pradhan Shri Amarnath;Sule Supriya

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether illegal mining is rampant in various parts of the country including mineral rich hilly regions;
- (b) the details of cases of illegal mining reported and the corrective/punitive action taken thereon during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise, mineral-wise;
- (c) whether the Indian Bureau of Mines has conducted an inspection and submitted its report;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith those received from different State Governments in this regard; and
- (e) the follow up action taken thereon?

Answer

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

- (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 174 for 09-03-2010 regarding illegal mining by Smt. Supriya Sule and Shri Amarnath Pradhan

(a) and (b): Some instances of illegal mining of minerals have come into the notice of the Government in various parts of the country. No separate data is maintained for mineral rich hilly regions. 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.

The Central Government had amended the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, to empower the State Governments to take action against illegal 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 at 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.

(c) to (e): Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) conducted a total of 1978 inspections (till February 2010) in the year 2009-10 and prosecution cases launched in 23 cases and six mines suspended. Further a Task Force was constituted in the IBM which conducted inspection in 106 mines in Orissa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, and has suspended mining operations in 60 mines for deviation in approved Mining Plan in respect of production, location of pit, overburden production and non-submission of Mining Plan/Mining Scheme, and violation notices have been issued to 28 mines. The State Governments have stopped issuing transport permit (royalty pass) for suspended mines.