

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5192
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2010
ILLEGAL MINING
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to conduct an inquiry in order to assess the role of people occupying high posts, mine operators etc., in illegal mining in Orissa; ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) : Some instances of illegal mining in the State of Orissa have come to the notice of Government. The State Government of Orissa informed that it has initiated administrative and vigilance enquiry, and has suspended mining operations in 164 mines and suspended 646 licenses for trading and storage of minerals. The State Government has arrested nine persons of who seven are serving officers in the State Government. Further, as a result of administrative enquiry, the State Government has initiated the following action :-

- # Disciplinary proceedings initiated against ex-Director of Mines and ex- Deputy Director of Mines (Joda) in the Directorate of Mining and Geology (both officers have been suspended);
- # Disciplinary proceedings initiated against Deputy Director of Mines, Mining Officer and Senior Mining Inspector in the Directorate of Mining and Geology (all officers have been suspended).
- # Between 10.11.2009 and 19.11.2009, the State Government has seized 4 vehicles, 19513 metric tonne of iron ore, 158 metric tonne of manganese ore valued at Rs.2.27 crore.