

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5475

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010

ILLEGAL MINING OF COAL

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**Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a huge amount of coal is being siphoned off from coal-mine pits and also through illegal mining resulting in great loss of revenue to the country, every year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such illegal mining lead to various accidents resulting in the loss of life of poor workers.
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by the Government to stop such activities?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE (IC) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF THE STATE (IC) IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. There is no reporting of such illegal activities from mines located in leasehold areas of CIL and its subsidiaries. However, in areas not in the leasehold areas of CIL and its subsidiaries, theft is carried out stealthily and clandestinely. As such, it is not possible to specify the exact quantum of coal stolen and losses incurred on account of theft/pilferage/illegal mining of coal.

As per raids conducted by security personnel as well as joint raids with the law and order authorities of the concerned State Government, the quantity of coal recovered and its approximate value during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (till Jan'2010) (prov.) are as under:

**Theft/Pilferage of Coal**

COMPANY	2009-10 (till Jan'10)	2008-2009	2007-2008
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Qty. recovered (in tones)	Value (In Lakhs)	Qty. recovered (in tones)	Value (In Lakhs)	Qty. recovered (in tones)	Value (In Lakhs)
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Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	3428.00	34.280	9152.00	91.52	13117.00	131.170
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Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	6351.09	135.480	9714.54	189.66	11071.52	186.895
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Central Coalfields Ltd.	306.75	3.296	2524.00	27.60	1803.07	23.095
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Northern 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.000 0 0  
Coalfields  
Ltd.

Western 191.31 3.180 353.15 5.99 250.01 4.078  
Coalfields  
Ltd.

South Eastern 371.17 5.453 843.98 15.04 1910.57 32.030  
Coalfields Ltd.

Mahanadi 1329.80 10.785 607.30 4.42 343.55 2.761  
Coalfields  
Ltd.

North Eastern 15.00 0.330 2.80 0.08 0 0  
Coalfields

Coal India 11993.12 192.804 23197.57 334.31 28495.72 380.03  
Ltd.

### Illegal Mining of Coal

COMPANY 2009-10(till 2008-2009 2007-2008  
Jan`10)

Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
recovered (In Rs.	recovered (In Rs.	recovered (In Rs.	recovered (In Rs.	recovered (In Rs.	recovered (In Rs.
(in tones)	Lakhs)	(in tones)	Lakhs)	(in tones)	Lakhs)

Eastern 6892.00 66.920 6529.00 65.290 2497.00 24.970  
Coalfields  
Ltd.

Bharat Coking 1970.31 32.502 2050.96 35.920 131.00 2.034  
Coal Ltd.

Central 5.00 0.050 93.00 0.855 429.90 7.549  
Coalfields  
Ltd

Northern 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.000 0 0  
Coalfields

Ltd.

Western 0.00 0.00 11.00 0.110 41.00 0.800  
Coalfields  
Ltd.

South Eastern 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.000 40.00 0.600  
Coalfield Ltd.

Mahanadi 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.000 0 0  
Coalfields  
Ltd.

North Eastern 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.000 0 0  
Coalfields

Coal India 8867.31 99.472 8683.96 102.175 3138.9 35.953  
Limited

(c): Illegal mining has the following adverse effects:

1. Leads to accidents and loss of life
2. Safety Hazard to the person engaged in illegal mining.
3. Creates unsafe conditions in adjoining working mines.

(d) No such details are maintained by the coal companies.

(e): Since, law and order is a State subject, primarily it is the responsibility of State/District administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop/curb illegal mining. Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiaries are also associated closely with the concerned State and District authorities to deal with this menace. Following measures have been taken by the Government with the help from coal PSUs. to prevent illegal coal mining:-

- (i) Rat holes created by illegal mining are being dozed off and filled up with stone and debris wherever possible.
- (ii) Trenches have been dug to isolate the illegal mining sites.
- (iii) Concrete walls have been erected on the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.
- (iv) Fencing of illegal mining sites and displaying of sign boards mentioning `Dangerous and Prohibited Place`.
- (v) Dumping of overburden is being done on the outcrop zones.
- (vi) Erection of barbed-wire/wall fencing around pithead depots, static security manning including deployment of armed guards during the night hours.
- (vii) Sealing of illegal mining spots is resorted to. Stringent action is taken against transport vehicles caught in the act of theft or pilferage.
- (viii) Training of existing security personnel, refresher training of CISF personnel and basic training to new recruits in security discipline are arranged for strengthening the security set up.
- (ix) Engaging of lady security guard for preventing women and children indulging in theft/pilferage of coal, strengthening of the security discipline by reassessing the requirement of security personnel, horizontal movement of executives with aptitude for security work and inducting qualified security personnel at junior, middle and senior levels.

(x) Ministry of Coal has been urging from time to time the Coal Producing States to check illegal mining. The State Governments were also advised to instruct their State law enforcing authorities to take stringent action under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 curbing illegal activities.

(xi) The Ministry of Coal has written to the Chief Secretaries of the coal producing States requesting them to put in place effective mechanism to check illegal mining. The States were also asked to give appropriate direction to the concerned authorities to take effective steps to check such illegal activities at places where large scale illegal mining was believed to be taken place. The State Governments were also advised to consider framing of suitable Rules, if not already done, under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to strengthen the hands of District authorities in curbing such illegal activities.

(xii) Based on the decisions taken in the meeting held on 17.05.2005 between Secretary (Coal) and Chief Secretary (Jharkhand), Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL) and Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) have taken up action to check illegal mining. Joint action for prevention of illegal mining has been initiated by the management of coal companies and District Administration. Government of Jharkhand has constituted State as well as District level Task Forces for this purpose.

(xiii) Minister of State (I/C) for Coal also had meetings with the Chief Minister, West Bengal on 24.06.2009 and with His Excellency, the Governor of Jharkhand on 26.05.2009 to request the concerned State Government to check/curb the illegal mining activities under their respective States.

(xiv) In September 2009, Ministry of Coal again requested Chief Secretaries of coal bearing States to instruct their State law enforcing authorities to take stringent action under the provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957 to check illegal mining activities.

(xv) Chairman, CIL has written on 13.02.2010 to all its subsidiary companies to take steps to curb illegal mining activities.

(xvi) Chairman, CIL also wrote the Director, CBI on 18.02.2010 for involvement of CBI to bring much needed close coordination between the coal companies, State police and Administration to take up the matter seriously to curb the theft of coal and illegal mining activities.