

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1669

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010

ILLEGAL MINING

Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.;Das Shri Bhakta Charan;Laguri Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh;Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar;Semmalai Shri S. ;Singh Shri Ijyaraj ;Tirkey Shri Manohar;Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether illegal mining has been increasing in the reserve forest areas of the country including in Balphakran National Sanctuary, Meghalaya;
- (b) if so, the details of the case that have come to notice during the last three years, and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the concerns of people of the area, where permission for mining is given, will be taken into consideration before giving clearance;
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to conduct any survey regarding impact of illegal mining on environment, wildlife and forest;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the illegal mining in reserve forest areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) Few incidents of illegal mining in Reserved Forests, including in the forest land in Chitmang Gangrot Aking and Halwa Atong Aking adjoining Balpakram National Park have been brought to notice of the Ministry of Environment & Forests. All the State Governments have been requested to submit reports on incidents of illegal mining in Reserved Forests during the last three years and the current year. On receipt of the information from States, it will be placed on floor of the Lok Sabha.

(c) To ensure settlement of rights, if any, in accordance with Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 on the forest land proposed to be diverted for mining purposes, consent of the Gram Sabha of each village in the vicinity of such forest land is obtained. Such consent is in the form of a resolution passed in a meeting of the Gram Sabha attended by not less than 50 % of its members clearly stating that all formalities/processes under the Act have been carried out and they have given their consent to the proposed diversion and the compensatory/ ameliorative measures, if any, having understood the purpose and details of the proposed diversion. Similarly, as per the EIA Notification, 2006, Public Consultation is an integral component of the environment clearance process by which the concerns of local affected persons and others who have plausible stake in the environmental impacts of the project or activity are ascertained with a view to taking into account all the material concerns in the project or activity design as appropriate.

(d) to (f) Ministry of Environment & Forests till date, has not taken any decision to conduct a survey, specifically to ascertain impact of illegal mining on environment, wildlife and forests. Ministry of Environment & Forests however, provides funds under various schemes to upgrade & strengthen State Forest Departments to conserve and protect forests, by effective prevention and control of forest offences, including illegal mining in forest area.