

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:628

ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010

ILLEGAL COAL MINING

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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether illegal coal mining operations are being carried out in various coalfields in the country ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; coal mine-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has investigated the matter of illegal coal mining ;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof alongwith the number of persons held guilty during the last three years and the current year and the action taken against them; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check the illegal coal mining operations in the country ?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) : No Sir. There are no reports of such illegal activities from mines located in leasehold areas of Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries. However, in areas not under the leasehold areas of CIL and its subsidiaries, there are incidences reported with local police about illegal mining being carried out stealthily and clandestinely. As such, it is not possible to specify the illegal mining of coal mine-wise.

(c) & (d) : 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. However, as per raids conducted by security personnel as well as joint raids with the law and order authorities of the concerned State Governments, the number of arrests made during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009- 10 (Prov.) for illegal mining are given below :

Data obtained from 2009-10 2008-09 2007-08
Company (Prov.)

Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL)	166	90	85
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCCL)	12	15	0
Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL)	0	0	12
Northern Coalfields Ltd. (NCL)	0	0	0
Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL)	0	1	4
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL)	0	0	0
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL)	0	0	0
North Eastern Coalfields (NEC)	3	0	0
Coal India Limited (CIL)	181	106	101

(e) : Following measures have been taken by the Government with the help from coal PSUs. to prevent illegal coal mining as Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiaries are also associated closely with the concerned State and District authorities to deal with this menace.

(i) Rat holes created by illegal mining are 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 control access and to prevent 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.