

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:438  
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2010  
ILLEGAL MINING OF IRON ORE  
Lingam Shri P.

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

- (a) whether there are reports of the seizure of illegally mined iron ore at Bellekari port in Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the source of such iron ore;
- (c) whether the Union Government/State Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details of their findings alongwith the details involved in such illegal activities and the action taken thereon; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by the Government to stop such illegal activities?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): As per available information, the Karnataka State Forest Department has seized about 8,05,991.083 metric tonnes of ore without valid permits. A Forest offence case was filed vide FIR No. 17/2009-10 dated 15.3.2010 under section 2(7)(b) (iv) 62, 80, 24 Karnataka Forest Act and Rule 143 and 162 of Karnataka Forest Rules. The seized material was kept at the disposal of Port Conservator, Belikere Port for safe custody. However, on the basis of a report on 20.6.2010 that the seized material has been exported illegally, the Karnataka State Forest Department investigated the matter, which revealed that 6.00 lakh metric tonnes of seized material has been illegally exported. The state Government has initiated action against the erring Port Conservator and he has been kept under suspension. Further the investigation by the Hon'ble Lokayukta and State Corps of Detective is in progress and stringent action would be initiated against the culprits. Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka has also prohibited export of ore seized in the Belekeri port.

(e): In view of recent increase in the instances of illegal mining, being reported in the media, the Central Government has requested State Governments to prepare Action Plans to monitor and curb illegal mining which includes the use of Satellite imagery and other intelligence inputs. So far, 10 States Government of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand have prepared Action Plan in terms of advice of Central Government. Further, there is a Central Empowered-cum-Coordination Committee which has been meeting six monthly to discuss various issues relating to the mining sector including illegal mining and measures to prevent, detect and control it. The Ministry of Mines has been issuing various guidelines and suggestions on the issue and monitors progress through the Central Committee. As per information received, 10 State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Goa, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal have set up Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee. Other States have been requested to ensure setting up of similar Committees at the earliest. A draft Model State Mineral Policy has also been circulated to all the State Governments. Indian Bureau of Mines has constituted Special Task Force Teams, which conducted inspections in 106 mines in endemic areas in 5 States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand and Gujarat between 7.12.2009 to 17.12.2009 and suspended operations in 60 mines. Out of the 60 suspended mines, 58 applied for evocation of suspension orders and 2 mines (one each in Orissa and Andhra Pradesh) have been recommended for termination. Out of 28 mines issued violation notices, 4 mines have been suspended, 10 mines have reported compliance. The Special Task Force conducted second round of inspections from 17.4.2010 to 27.4.2010 in Karnataka. It inspected 67 mines and found serious violations in 18 mines, which were suspended. Similarly, less serious violations were found in 16 mines, which have been issued violation notices for compliance. In order to ensure direct role of Central Government in curbing illegal mining, where the State Governments have failed, a draft Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, has been suitably prepared. The draft Act is presently referred to a Group of Ministers.