

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1796

ANSWERED ON:10.08.2011

ILLEGAL COAL MINING

Nirupam Shri Sanjay Brijkishorilal ;Singh Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) The details of magnitude of illegal/unauthorized coal mining and loss of revenue as a result thereof during the last three years and the current year in the country, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) whether the Union Government has issued any directions to the State Governments to take appropriate action to check illegal/unauthorized coal mining in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Union Government has any proposal to intervene directly to check the illegal mining in the States;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the rate of illegal coal mining is very high in some States;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) the other steps taken to stop the illegal coal mining in the country ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL)

(a): Illegal mining of coal 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 illegal mining of coal. However, 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 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12(upto June'11)(prov) are as under:

Company State	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
	(upto June'11) (Prov)			

Qty. reco- vered	App. Value (Rs. (te) Lakh)	Qty. reco- vered	App. Value (Rs. (te) Lakh)	Qty. reco- vered	App. Value (Rs. (te) Lakh)	Qty. reco- vered	App. Value (Rs. (te) Lakh)
------------------	----------------------------	------------------	----------------------------	------------------	----------------------------	------------------	----------------------------

ECL W. Bengal	4203.00	42.030	5763.00	67.880	5650.00	113.000	486.00	9.720
Jharkhand	2326	23.260	2398.00	28.42	1401	26.02	20	0.4

Total	6529.00	65.29	8161.00	96.300	7051.00	139.020	506.00	10.120
-------	---------	-------	---------	--------	---------	---------	--------	--------

BCCL Jharkhand	1986.15	34.630	2127.18	35.932	1309.39	25.031	163.53	3.353
W. Bengal	64.81	1.290	4.00	0.080	10.97	0.219	0.00	0.000

Total	2050.96	35.92	2131.18	36.012	1320.36	25.250	163.53	3.353
-------	---------	-------	---------	--------	---------	--------	--------	-------

CCL Jharkhand 93.00 0.85 30.00 0.300 15.00 0.150 0.00 0.000

NCL UP/MP 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.000 0.00 0.000 0.00 0.000

WCL Maharashtra 0.00 0.000 0.00 0.000 0.00 0.000 0.00 0.000
MP 11.00 0.110 0.00 0.000 0.00 0.000 0.00 0.000

Total 11.00 0.11 0.00 0.000 0.00 0.000 0.00 0.000

SECL MP/CG 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.000 0.00 0.000 0.00 0.000

MCL Orissa 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.000 0.00 0.000 0.00 0.000

NEC Assam 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.000 0.00 0.000 0.00 0.000

Coal
India Total 8683.96 102.17 10322.18 132.612 8386.36 164.42 669.53 13.473

(b) & (c) : 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) 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.

(ii) 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.

(iii) 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.

(iv) Minister of 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.

(v) 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.

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

(vii) 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.

(d): No, Sir.

(e): Does not arise in view of reply to part (d) .

(f)& (g): Yes, Sir. Cases of illegal mining are detected predominantly in the eastern region, mainly in the States of Jharkhand, covering Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL), Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL) and Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL). Both illegal mining and theft & pilferage of coal are predominant in eastern region. Traditionally, areas prone to illegal mining, thefts and mafia operations in CCL, BCCL and ECL are :

CCL : Hazaribagh, Kuju, Argada, Rajarappa and Giridih. There are total 195 illegal mining sites in CCL, including 6 in Rajarappa area. Out of these 195 sites, 174 places have been closed and work for closing remaining sites is under progress.

BCCL : Baroda, Block-II, WJ (Mohuda Group), Govindpur, Katras, Sijua, Kusunda, Kustore, Bastacolla, Lodna, EJ Area and Chach Victoria.

There are total 49 illegal mining sites in BCCL.

ECL : Satgram, Sripur, Salanpur, Sodepur, Kunstoria, Pandveshwar, Mugma, SP Mines and Rajamahar. There are total 203 illegal mining sites in ECL.

(h): 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.

(viii) Stringent action is taken against transport vehicles caught in the act of theft or pilferage.

(ix) 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.

(x) 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.