

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2481

ANSWERED ON:28.03.2012

ILLEGAL MINING

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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has carried out any study to evaluate the financial loss as well as loss of lives due to illegal mining and theft of coal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for the illegal mining in the country;
- (c) whether the Government has constituted a high level surveillance wing, involving the police, CISF and intelligence departments to check the rampant illegal coal mining in various States including West Bengal and Jharkhand;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the extent to which the surveillance wing is likely to curb the illegal coal mining?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL)

(a)&(b) : In this regard, Government of Jharkhand had instituted a study through the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad and Xavier Labour Research Institute (XLRI), Jamshedpur to examine, inter-alia, the supply-wise inter- linkages between illegal coal mining and socio-economic conditions/demographic profiles of the main elements involved in this activity, understand the demand- side dynamics of illegally mined coal in different sectors, explore and suggest mitigation strategies rooted in social acceptability economic viability, environmental sustainability and practical implementability, extant, spread and severity of the problem etc. Report suggested following main drivers for forcing or inducing individuals into illegal coal supply chain activities :

1. Landlessness/marginal landholding
2. Dependence on illegal coal supply chain for sustenance
3. Lack of alternative employment opportunities
4. Illiteracy & Low literacy levels
5. Debt burden, coercion by middlemen/coal mafia, easy availability of coal
6. Better economic returns from illegal coal
- 7 Market demand for illegal coal
8. Failure of the government and coal companies.

As per the provisional estimate of XLRI loss on account of illegal coal was Rs. 106 crore to Coal India Limited till 2006 and anticipated loss of Rs.34 crore per year to the State of Jharkhand. However, the study did not assess loss of lives due to illegal mining and theft of coal.

(c)to(e) : Yes, Sir. Government of West Bengal and Government of Jharkhand have formed State and District level task force groups, involving the police, officials from Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and intelligence departments to check the rampant illegal coal mining. It is expected that the above effort would be able to curb these activities.