

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5376
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2012
PERMISSION FOR MINING
Namdhari Shri Inder Singh

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of illegal coal mining in various coal bearing States;
- (b) if so, the details and the reaction of the Government thereto:
- (c) whether the Government proposes to permit States including Jharkhand to mine coal from the areas where illegal mining is rampant;
- (d) if so, the details of the areas identified or/and where the permission is likely to be given, State-wise; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Illegal mining of coal has been receiving attention of the Government since a long time. Basically, illegal mining of coal is carried out stealthily and clandestinely. Besides, Law & order, being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Government/District administration to take necessary deterrent action against such illegal activities in areas under their control.

As far as command areas under Government coal companies are concerned, many steps such as fencing of unused work areas, sealing of exposed coal by dumping of overburden material, filing of FIRs in various police stations and intensifying raids by CISF and the security staff of the coal company and seizure of illegally mined coal is being taken on continuous basis.

In this regard Government of West Bengal and Government of Jharkhand have formed State and District level task force groups, involving the police, officials from Coal India Limited (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 though, the infested area involved is very large.

(c) to (e): No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.