

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1056  
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009  
ILLEGAL MINING  
Jeyadural Shri S. R.

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether illegal mining has caused immense damage to the environment in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether several mining companies are involved in illegal mining in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken against such companies;
- (e) the number of mining companies who have applied for environmental clearance during each of the last three years and the current year including the details of clearances given during this period; and
- (f) the long term action plan drawn by the Government to check illegal mining?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b): Mining activities without requisite environmental safeguards are known to have adverse impacts on different components of environment inter-alia, air quality, water quality, groundwater availability, drainage, flora, fauna and their habitat.

(c),(d)&(f): Press reports have appeared from time to time reporting illegal mining in different parts of the country. The State Governments are the owners of minerals and since the minerals rights and collection of revenue and matters related to police, law and order machinery vest with State Governments, the State Governments have been empowered under Section 23C of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 to frame Rules for prevention of illegal mining and to take action. As informed by Ministry of Mines, the Central Government is not empowered under MMDR Act to book any illegal miner for offence. However, whenever the Central Government has received complaint of illegal mining, these are enquired into by Indian Bureau of Mines and the concerned State Governments are requested to take stringent action.

(e) The year-wise detail of mining projects received and granted environmental clearance by Ministry of Environment & Forests is given hereunder:-

S. No. Year Projects Received Projects granted Environmental Clearance

	Non Coal	Total	Non Coal	Total
	Coal	Coal	Coal	Coal

1	2006-07	434	103	537	264	69	333
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2	2007-08	263	50	313	334	63	397
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3	2008-09	188	64	252	224	66	290
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4 2009-10 114 47 161 58 40 98  
(upto  
October,  
2009)