

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1555
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2012
ILLEGAL EXPORT OF IRON ORE
Abdulrahman Shri

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there have been instances of illegal export of iron ore from the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the quantum of iron ore exported illegally during each of the last three years and the current year, value-wise; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent such incidents in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(DR. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) & (b) : While there have been instances of illegal mining activities especially for iron ore, there is no data on quantum of ore allegedly exported out of such activities.

(c) : Government has made it mandatory under Rule 45 of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 for miners, traders, stockists, end-users and exporters to register with Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) and report entire transactions in minerals for proper end to end accounting of minerals. The online reporting system for all the iron ore mines has commenced since 29th March, 2012. In order to ensure that minerals are transacted only through registered persons, State Governments have been requested to issue transit passes for mineral movement to such registered persons with IBM only. Thus, the system is sufficiently enabled to ensure accountability of mineral transactions, including exports.

With tighter regulatory regimes at the State level and with restrictions imposed by the Supreme Court in Karnataka, the issue of illegal mining is being effectively addressed. Iron ore exports have drastically come down to 61.74 million tonnes in 2011-12 from 97.66 million tonnes in 2010-11. In 2012-13 (April-September), exports are provisionally estimated at 14.44 million tonnes only.