

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:328

ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013

ILLEGAL MINING OF COAL

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**Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether illegal mining and theft of coal is allegedly being carried out in various coal mines of the country;
- (b) If so, the amount of revenue loss on this account and the culprits apprehended during each of the last three years and the current year, coal mine-wise;
- (c) The number of persons reportedly died and injured in each coal mine during illegal mining/theft during the above period;
- (d) The action taken or proposed to be taken against the guilty officials involved in illegal mining and theft activities; and
- (e) The remedial measures taken by the Government to check illegal mining and theft of coal from various coal mines?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASH BAPU PATIL)

(a)&(b): Illegal mining and theft/pilferage of coal are 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 and theft/pilferage 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 Governments, the quantity of coal recovered & its approximate value and arrests made in subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL) during 2009-10,2010-11,2011-12 and the current year 2012-13 (upto August, 2012) is given as Annexure-A. There are no instances of illegal mining and large scale theft and pilferage reported in Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL).

(c) : Since illegal mining and theft/pilferage of coal is carried out stealthily and clandestinely it is not possible to indicate number of deaths and injuries caused to the persons involved in these activities.

(d) : As per information received from Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited there are no reports regarding involvement of any official in illegal mining and theft/pilferage activities.

(e) : The coal companies in close association with the concerned State/District authorities, has taken several measures to prevent illegal mining and theft/pilferage of coal. The measures include :-

- (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 control access and to prevent 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. Stringent action is taken against transport vehicles caught in the act of theft or pilferage.
- (viii) 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.
- (ix) Engaging of lady security guards for preventing women and children indulging in theft /pilferage of coal.
- (x) 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.

(xi) 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.

(xii) Installation of check-post at vulnerable points to check transport documents.

(xiii) The coal companies maintain close liaison with the State authorities.

(xiv) Committee/task force has been constituted at different level (block level, sub-divisional level, district level, state level) at some subsidiaries of CIL to monitor different aspects of illegal mining.

(xv) Regular patrolling is conducted in and around the mine including over burden (OB) dumps.

(xvi) Joint patrolling with local police is also being carried out in areas.

(xvii) Surprise checks/raids are conducted by flying squads of CISF/security department.

(xviii) Surprise re-weighment of coal laden trucks is done, at weighbridges.

(xix) Regular FIRs are lodged by the Management of the collieries and CISF with local Thana against the pilferage/theft of coal. A close watch on the activities of criminals is being maintained by CISF, etc.