

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4694

ANSWERED ON:23.04.2013

IMPACT OF ILLEGAL MINING

Rama Devi Smt. ;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment in regard to the effect of coal mining including illegal mining on the people living in the neighbouring areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL)

(a)to(c) : The impact and effect due to coal mining on coal mining including the people living in the neighbouring areas are assessed by an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study and Demographic profile study in the nearby villages for each project and based on the same, Environmental Management Plans (EMP) dealing with various pollution mitigation measures to be undertaken to reduce the effect and impact of pollution on the people living in the neighbouring areas are prepared.

To assess the effectiveness of the Environmental Management, regular monitoring of various environmental attributes are carried out as per Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to assess the efficacy of environmental protection measures taken and if required additional measures are taken to keep the various environmental attributes within the prescribed limits of the Regulatory Agencies. Further mine closure plans are mandatory and are integral part of mining plans and government has issued detailed guidelines for preparation of mine closure plan and mine owners have to deposit specified amount in a fixed deposit escrow account in a scheduled bank and coal controller is the authority to ensure proper mine closure and release of amount to the mine owners on satisfactory implementation of mine closure plans as per the guidelines.

As regards illegal mining Govt. of Jharkhand had engaged Indian School of Mines University (ISMU), Dhanbad and Xavier Labour Relations Institute (XLRI), Jamshedpur for conducting a study on "Illegal mining in Jharkhand and mitigation measures". ISMU, Dhanbad and XLRI, Jamshedpur has submitted their study report in the year 2008. Further a work-order has been issued to ISMU, Dhanbad on 18.02.2013 to undertake a study to assess the extent of illegal mining in the lease-hold area of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) and suggest corrective measures.