

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:294

ANSWERED ON:06.12.2013

ILLEGAL MINING

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Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an increase in the incidents of illegal mining in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the cases of illegal mining detected/reported in the country during the last one year and till date indicating the officials and companies found involved in such activities and the action taken/being taken against them, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the estimated loss of revenue to the Union and State Governments thereby along with the remedial measures taken to recover the losses;
- (d) whether the Government proposed to allocate mineral concessions including coal and iron ore only to Union/State owned companies to curb illegal mining and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the monitoring mechanism put in place by the Government to bring transparency in the mining sector along with the stringent measures being taken/ proposed to be taken in co-ordination with State Governments to curb illegal mining in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (c): As per section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957, the State Governments have been empowered to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals. State Governments deal with cases of illegal mining therefore specific details is not centrally maintained in the Ministry

However, as per information compiled by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) (a subordinate office under the Ministry) based on information provided by the State Governments in the quarterly returns on illegal mining, year-wise details of cases of illegal mining detected and action taken by State Governments for the last three years period from 2010-11 to 2012-13 are given in Annexure. This information indicates that incidents of illegal mining have increased during last three years period.

Where there is a loss of revenue to the State Government from royalty, rents or taxes and the actual loss of mineral on account of illegal mining, the MMDR Act, 1957 provides a penalty of imprisonment for a term upto two years or a fine extending to Rs. 25,000 or with both. The MMDR Act, 1957 also provides that the State Governments may recover not only the price of mined out mineral, in case the mineral is disposed of, but also the royalty and rent or taxes, as may be payable for the mineral mined illegally from an area.

(d): No Madam.

(e): The Central Government in co-ordination with State Governments has taken the following steps to curb and check illegal mining in the country:

(i) State Governments were asked to frame rules to control illegal mining as per Section 23 C of MMDR Act (20 States have framed Rules).

(ii) State Governments were requested to set up Task Forces at State and District level to control illegal mining since the year 2005 (so far 23 State Governments have reported to have set up Task Forces).

(iii) State Governments were advised to set up State Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee (SCEC) to coordinate efforts to control illegal mining by including representatives of Railways, Customs and Port authorities (13 State Governments have set up such Committees).

(iv) State Governments were advised to adopt an Action Plan with specific measures to detect and control illegal mining including, use of remote sensing, control on traffic, gather market intelligence, registration of end-users and setting up of special cells etc.

(v) A Central Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee set up under Secretary (Mines) having representation of major mineral bearing states and concerned Central Government Ministries/ Departments on 4.3.2009. The Committee is holding regular meetings to consider all mining related issues including matters relating to coordination of activities to combat illegal mining.

(vi) Railways have instituted a mechanism to allow transportation of iron ore only against permits issued rake-wise and verified by State Government, apart from taking measures to fence and set up check post at the railway sidings.

(vii) Customs Department has issued instructions to all its field units to share information on ore export with State Governments.

(viii) Ministry of Shipping has issued a direction to all major Ports to streamline the verification procedures for movement of consignment by road and rail to Ports for exports.

(ix) Government has notified amendment in Rule 45 of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988, on 9.2.2011 making it

mandatory for all miners, traders, stockist, exporters and end-users to register with IBM and report their transaction in minerals on monthly basis for a proper end-to-end accounting of minerals.

(x) Indian Bureau Mines had constituted Special Task Forces for inspection of mines in endemic areas by taking the help of Satellite imageries. (xi) The Central Government has set up Justice M. B. Shah Commission to inquire into large scale illegal mining of iron ore and manganese ore in the country. The extended tenure of the Commission was till 16th October, 2013.