

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:252
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2013
INSPECTION OF MINES
Ram Shri Purnmasi

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has carried out any inspection of mines in the country in the recent years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the outcome of inspection carried out and violation noticed therein during each of the last three years and the current year, State/ UT-wise including Jharkhand; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) and (b): Yes, Madam. It is stated that as per the delineation of powers in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) has powers to regulate mining activities for major minerals (excluding fuel, coal and atomic minerals) in mining lease areas through Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 (MCDR), and the State Government concerned have powers to curb illegal mining activities for major minerals through Rules framed under Section 23 C of the said Act and also regulate mining of minor minerals in terms of Rules framed under Section 15 of the Act.

Accordingly, as per the delineation of powers and as per available information, details of inspections of mines carried out and action taken by IBM for implementation of provisions of MCDR in the last three years and the current year are given in Annexure - I, and details of cases of illegal mining of minerals reported and action taken by the State Governments in the last three years are given in Annexure - II.

The Central Government in co-ordination with State Governments has also 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.