

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4938
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2015
IMPACT OF ILLEGAL MINING .
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have so far made any assessment/study regarding the impact of illegal coal mining people living near illegal mining areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a to c): Theft and illegal mining of coal is carried out stealthily and clandestinely in old and abandoned mines, small and isolated patches, outcrop areas and areas which are not in the lease hold areas of public sector coal companies. As such, it is not possible to specify the losses incurred by Coal India Limited due to theft and illegal mining of coal. Law & Order being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State/District administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop-curb theft of coal.

XLRI, Jamshedpur and ISM, Dhanbad were engaged by CIL to study the impact of illegal coal mining. They have analysed the impact of illegal coal mining on people living near illegal mining areas, which may be summed up as under: A. Impact of illegal coal mining on people living near illegal mining areas include:-

- (i) Law and order problem in the nearby areas.
- (ii) Easy earning through illegal coal mining leads to anti social activities.

B. Main reasons for illegal coal mining include

- i. Lack of job alternatives / job opportunities.
- ii. Low literacy level.
- iii. Marginal land holding.
- iv. Debt burden.

CIL is taking following actions to control illegal coal mining by uplifting the social status of the nearby people:

1. Creation of alternate employment opportunities - Local people are given preference in the small value tenders work.
2. Socio economic development initiatives in coal belt - Training for skill development is imparted to local people.
3. Improve access to education - CIL finances schools in the coal mining areas for the wards of the local people. Adult education is also imparted at a few places for the local people.
4. Creating micro / lift irrigation facility - At some places mine water is used for irrigation in nearby areas.
5. Arrangement for community development - 2% of the average net profit of immediately preceding last three years or Rs. 2.00 per tonne of coal production of previous year, whichever is higher is spent on community development / corporate social responsibility.

Further following steps have also been taken by coal companies to prevent illegal mining of coal:

- (i) Rat holes created by illegal mining are being dozed off and filled up with stone and debris wherever possible.
- (ii) Concrete walls have been erected on the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.

- (iii) Regular and surprise raids/checks being conducted by security personnel and static security pickets including armed guards during the night hours are being deployed at pithead depots.
- (iv) Fencing is being constructed at the various illegal mining sites along with displaying of signboards mentioning "Dangerous and Prohibited Place.
- (v) Dumping of the overburden is being done on the outcrop zones, which are not required to be mined.
- (vi) Installation of check-posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents;
- (vii) The coal companies maintain close liaison with the State authorities for collection of intelligence and necessary measures.
- (viii) 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.