

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6143
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2015
IRREGULARITIES IN COAL MINING
S.R. Shri Vijay Kumar

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the concrete steps taken to stop illegal mining of coal, either by extraction of coal without obtaining a valid mining lease or by mining in areas outside the leasehold areas of coal companies;
- (b) whether the extant laws are adequate to deal with coal mafia or any amendments or enactment of fresh laws are on the anvil; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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. Law & Order is a State subject, hence, it is the responsibility of the State/District administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop/curb theft of coal. However following steps have been taken by Coal India Limited to stop 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) 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.