

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:486

ANSWERED ON:14.07.2014

ILLEGAL MINING

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Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of instances of illegal mining operations reported from the mineral producing States during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) the amount of revenue loss incurred by the Union/State Governments on account of such illegal mining;
- (c) whether the Government has investigated the reported illegal mining operations in the country and if so, the details and the outcome thereof, case-wise;
- (d) the number of cases of illegal mining where officials were found to be allegedly involved and the action taken by the Government against the guilty officials; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken including the mechanism put in place to stop illegal mining by the Government?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES, STEEL AND LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a): Based on the quarterly returns on illegal mining submitted by various State Governments to Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) (a subordinate office under the Ministry), details of instances of illegal mining reported in various parts of the country for last three years and the current year, State-Wise is given in ANNEXURE.

(b): Royalty on minerals is collected by the State Governments. Data on loss to the State exchequer due to non-payment of royalty as a result of illegal mining is not centrally maintained.

(c) and (d): 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; specific details in this regard are not centrally maintained.

(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) Regular monitoring of framing of rules by the State Governments to control illegal mining as per Section 23C of MMDR Act (so far 20 States have framed the rules under section 23C of MMDR Act, 1957 to curb illegal mining);

(ii) Regular monitoring of setting up of Task Forces at State and District level to control illegal mining since the year 2005 (so far 23 States have reported to have constituted the Task Forces);

(iii) Regular monitoring of setting 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 a Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee);

(iv) Regular follow up with State Governments 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 the Chairmanship of Secretary (Mines) on 4.3.2009 and reconstituted on 20.10.2011 holds quarterly meetings to consider all mining related issues, including matters relating to coordination of activities to combat illegal mining;

(vi) Ministry of Railways have instituted a mechanism on 16.4.2010 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) D/o Revenue (Customs) has issued instructions to all its field units to share information on iron ore exports with the State Governments;

(viii) Ministry of Shipping has directed all major Ports in the country to streamline the verification procedures for movement of iron ore, and to check whether royalty has been paid for the consignment;

(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, stockists, 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 has 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 the Justice M. B. Shah Commission of Inquiry (COI) to inquire into large scale illegal mining of iron ore and manganese ore in the country;

(xii) First Interim Report submitted by COI, alongwith the Action Taken Report (ATR), was laid in the Lok Sabha on 20.12.2011 and in the Rajya Sabha on 30.04.2012. Further, an 'Updated Memorandum of Action Taken' on this Report was laid in the Lok Sabha on 07.2.2014 and in the Rajya Sabha on 10.2.2014;

(xiii) Reports on the State of Goa (Part I & II) submitted by COI, alongwith ATR were laid before both the Houses of Parliament on 07.09.2012. Further, 'Updated Memorandum of Action Taken' on these Reports was laid in the Lok Sabha on 07.2.2014 and in the Rajya Sabha on 10.2.2014; and

(xiv) First Report on the State of Odisha submitted by COI, alongwith ATR thereon was laid in the Lok Sabha on 11.2.2014 and in the Rajya Sabha on 10.2.2014 (English version) and 12.2.2014 (Hindi version).