

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:22

ANSWERED ON:17.11.2016

Mine Surveillance System

Malviya Prof. Chintamani;Shiyal Dr. Bharati Dhirubhai

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the areas/places in various parts of the country vulnerable to illegal mining and revenue loss incurred thereon during the last three years;
- (b) the mechanism in place to detect illegal mining along with corrective action taken thereon;
- (c) whether the Government is in the process of developing and launching a Mine Surveillance System (MSS) for major minerals in consultation with the Indian Bureau of Mines so as to detect illegal mining and if so, the details and main features thereof; and
- (d) the time by which it is likely to start functioning in the various States?

Answer

A statement is laid on the table of the House.

THE STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 22 RAISED BY DR. BHARATIBEN D. SHYAL AND PROF. CHINTAMANI MALVIYA, MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FOR REPLY ON 17th NOVEMBER, 2016.

(a) & (b): As per Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation), 1957 (MMDR Act, 1957), State Governments have been empowered to frame rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals for the purposes connected therewith. Therefore, prevention and control of illegal mining comes under the legislative and administrative jurisdiction of State Governments. The details of areas in various parts of the country, vulnerable to illegal mining and revenue loss incurred thereon, are not available at the Ministry's level. However, based on the quarterly returns on illegal mining submitted by various State Governments to Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office under the Ministry of Mines, state-wise details of instances of illegal mining reported for the last three years along with the details of action taken against the violators is given in Annexure-I, II & III.

Further, the MMDR Act, 1957 was amended through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 which came into effect from 12th January, 2015. The Amendment Act has, inter alia, provided for stringent penal provisions for combating illegal mining. Illegal mining has been made punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees per hectare. The provisions have been made for setting up of Special Courts for the purpose of providing speedy trial of offences relating to illegal mining.

(c): The Ministry of Mines, through Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), has developed the Mining Surveillance System (MSS), in collaboration with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG), Gandhinagar, to use space technology for facilitating State Governments in curbing illegal mining activities in the country. MSS is a satellite-based monitoring system which aims to establish a regime of responsive mineral administration, through public participation, by facilitating State Governments in curbing instances of illegal mining. The wider use of Satellite Remote Sensing Technology together with Information Technology will offer quick, transparent and periodic monitoring of mining leases including easy access to remote areas. The MSS also includes user-friendly mobile application for use of mining officials which will receive alerts, do field verification and submit inspection reports.

(d) The Mining Surveillance System has been launched on 15.10.2016 and is being made fully functional throughout the country. The MSS has been hosted on the National Centre of Geo-Informatics portal: www.ncog.gov.in/mining/login
