

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1351

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2014

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 mineral producing States during each of the last three years and the current year, State- wise;
- (b) the estimated amount of revenue loss incurred by the Union/State Governments on account of such illegal mining;
- (c) whether the Government has constituted Justice M.B. Shah Commission to investigate the reported illegal mining operations in the country and if so, the details and outcome thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has undertaken or plan to initiate any action to control the magnitude of illegal mining in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES AND STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a) & (b): Based on the quarterly returns on illegal mining submitted by various State Governments to Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) (a subordinate office of the Ministry), details of instances of illegal mining reported in various parts of the Country and the action taken by State Governments, for the last four years and the current year (till the quarter ending June, 2014), State-Wise, are given in ANNEXURE.

As per section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957, 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; therefore specific details on the estimated amount of revenue loss incurred by the Union/State Governments on account of illegal mining is not centrally maintained.

(c): The Central Government constituted Justice M. B. Shah Commission of Inquiry (COI) on 22.11.2010 to inquire into illegal mining of iron and manganese ores in the Country. The tenure of the COI ended on 16.10.2013. The COI submitted the First Interim Report and specific reports on the States of Goa, Odisha and Jharkhand to the Government which have been laid in the Parliament along with 'Memorandum of Action Taken' thereon.

(d) and (e): The following steps have been taken by the Central Government 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 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 22 States have reported to have constituted the Task Forces);

(iii) Regular monitoring of setting up of 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, gathering 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) Department of 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; and

(x) Indian Bureau Mines has constituted Special Task Forces for inspection of mines in endemic areas by taking the help of Satellite imageries.