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Title: Need to take suitable steps to check illegal mining and smuggling of Manganese and Iron-ore in Keonjhar District, Orissa.

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (KEONJHAR): Sir, it is a matter of great concern that illegal mining and smuggling of manganese and iron-ore is on the increase in the nearby mining areas of Joda and Barbil in the district of Keonjhar in Orissa. Keonjhar district in Orissa occupies a significant place in the mining map of Asia. The district abounds in high-grade minerals like iron-ore, manganese, bauxite, limestone, graphite etc. Besides providing direct employment to thousands of people from all over India, these mines make significant contribution to the State as well as national exchequers. Unless the Government of India intervenes in the matter, the State will continue to sustain a huge loss every day.

As such, I would request the Union Minister of Coal and Mines to take all possible steps to check the illegal mining and transporting of these minerals out of Orissa forthwith.