

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 26.07.2010
ANSWERED ON
CASES OF ILLEGAL MINING .

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SHRI R.C. SINGH

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING MINES be pleased to state :-

(a) whether it is a fact that large extent of illegal mining operations are located in the Maoist influenced areas of several States, including Orissa, Jharkhand, West Bengal, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a nexus between the Maoists and illegal mining operators have been built up in those areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has any estimate regarding the loss of minerals through illegal mining both value-wise and quantity-wise; and

(f) if so, the details of Government measures to stop such illegal mining?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE)

(a) to (f) : Extortion by Maoists from various quarters including the mining sector might be contributing to their funding. However, no data is centrally maintained in this regard. The Seventh Report of Second Administrative Reforms Commission had recommended setting up of special anti-extortion and anti-money laundering cell by State Police/State Government. The State Governments have been accordingly advised to establish such cells to prevent any nexus between illegal mining/forest contractors, transporters and extremists. 21 State Governments have constituted Task Forces at State and District Level for monitoring illegal mining. All the State Governments have been requested to prepare Action Plans to monitor and curb illegal mining which includes the use of Satellite imagery and other intelligence inputs. So far, 10 States Government of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand have prepared Action Plan in terms of advice of Central Government. Further, there is a Central Empowered-cum-Coordination Committee which has been meeting six monthly to discuss various issues relating to the mining sector including illegal mining and measures to prevent, detect and control it. The Ministry of Mines has been issuing various guidelines and suggestion on the issue and monitors the progress through the Central Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee. As per information received, 10 State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Goa, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal have set up State level Coordination-cum-Empowered Committees. Other States have been requested to ensure setting up of similar Committees at the earliest. A draft Model State Mineral Policy has also been circulated to all the State Governments.