

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF MINES**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 06.12.2010**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**EXPORT OF ILLEGALLY MINED IRON ORE .**

2876

Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar

Will the Minister of COALMINES be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government is aware that illegally mined iron is being exported from the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps Government has taken to prevent such exports and illegal mining?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION

(SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE)

(a) & (b):As per available information, the Karnataka State Forest Department has seized about 8,05,991.083 metric tonnes of ore without valid permits. A Forest offence case was filed vide FIR No. 17/2009-10 dated 15.3.2010 under section 2(7)(b)

(iv) 62, 80, 24 Karnataka Forest Act and Rule 143 and 162 of Karnataka Forest Rules. The seized material was kept at the disposal of Port Conservator, Belikere Port for safe custody. However, on the basis of a report on 20.6.2010 that the seized material has been exported illegally, the Karnataka State Forest Department investigated the matter, which revealed that 6.00 lakh metric tonnes of seized material has been illegally exported. The state Government has initiated action against the erring Port Conservator and he has been kept under suspension. Further the investigation by the Hon'ble Lokayukta and State Corps of Detective is in progress and stringent action would be initiated against the culprits. Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka has also prohibited export of ore seized in the Belekeri port.

(c):The Central Government has taken following steps, to curb illegal mining:-

The State Governments have been advised to set up State Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee (SCEC) to coordinate efforts to control illegal mining by including representatives of Railways, Customs and Port authorities. Separately the State Governments have also been advised to prepare and 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.

Mainly because of the proactive stance taken by the Central Government on the issue, the following developments have been reported:

Eighteen States (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) have framed Rules under Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to control illegal mining.

Twenty one States (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) have set up Task Force at State and/or District level to check illegal mining as per the instruction of Central Government.

Thirteen State Governments (Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Goa, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal) have set up a Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee. Five States (Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand) have digitized the total mining area.

State Government of Tamilnadu has digitized 100 cadastral maps.

State Governments of Rajasthan and Orissa have reported to have commenced using satellite imagery. Rajasthan has digitized mining area in GIS environment and superimposed on digital toposheets supplied by Survey of India.

State Governments of Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Orissa have reported to have started use of holograms/ bar codes in the transport permits.

During the first half of year 2010, the State Governments detected 35136 cases of illegal mining of minor and major minerals as compared to 41578 cases detected in the full year 2009.