GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.28
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2021

ILLEGAL COAL SCAVENGING

28. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE

Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of incidents of illegal scavenging in coal mines across the country;

(b) if so, the details of total such incidents reported over the last five years, State-wise;

(c) whether Government is aware that many minor children from marginalized poor families are involved in these illegal scavenging incidents;

(d) if so, the number of such minors involved in such incidents during the last five years and the total number of deaths of minors over last five years while scavenging for coal; and

(e) the steps being taken to rehabilitate such families?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, COAL AND MINES
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a): Illegal mining of coal is reported to be carried out mainly from abandoned mines, shallow coal seams situated at remote/isolated places from the mines and are scattered over a large area. It is a Law & Order problem which is a State subject, hence primarily; falls under the domain of the State/ District administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop/curb illegal mining of coal.

Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 empowers State Governments to make rules for preventing illegal mining.

Coal India Limited endeavours to obtain all statutory clearances/licenses before commencement of coal production. During the course of coal production all statutory provisions under various Acts, Rules and Regulations are observed for conducting various activities.

(b): Illegal mining of coal is carried out stealthily and clandestinely. First Information Reports (FIRs) are lodged whenever any incident of Illegal mining of coal comes to the notice of the coal companies.

Number of FIRs lodged in cases of illegal mining of coal during the last five years, company-wise and State-wise is given below:

(Provisional)

Name of the Company	**State**	**FIR LODGED**				
		2020-21	**2019-20**	**2018-19**	**2017-18**	**2016-17**
ECL	WB	12	224	184	72	8
	Jharkhand	1	18	64	12	8
	Sub Total	**13**	**242**	**248**	**84**	**16**
BCCL	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0
	WB	0	0	0	0	0
	Sub Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
CCL	**Jharkhand**	**1**	**0**	**7**	**3**	**0**
NCL	MP	0	0	0	0	0
	UP	0	0	0	0	0
	Sub Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
WCL	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0
	MP	0	0	0	0	0
	Sub Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
SECL	MP	0	0	0	0	0
	Chattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0
	Sub Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
MCL	**Orissa**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
NEC	**Assam**	**3**	**1**	**8**	**7**	**0**
Coal India Limited		**17**	**243**	**263**	**94**	**16**

(c): Illegal mining is dominant in eastern region mainly in the States of Jharkhand and West Bengal as mines area are surrounded by human settlements due to its geographical conditions.

(d) & (e): Illegal scavenging incidents are a Law & Order problem which is a State subject, hence primarily; falls under the domain of the State/ District administration to take necessary deterrent action.

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