

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 283
ANSWERED ON 05.02.2024

ILLEGAL MINING IN JHARKHAND

283# SHRI DEEPAK PRAKASH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

Whether Government is taking any major steps to deal with the huge loss of life, property and revenue caused by illegal mining in large quantities by anarchist groups in the State of Jharkhand?

ANSWER

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

As per Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 [MMDR Act, 1957], State Governments have been empowered to frame rules to curb illegal mining, transportation, and storage of illegally mined minerals and for the purposes connected therewith. Accordingly, State Governments are delegated with the matters connected with illegal mining.

The Government of Jharkhand has been requested several times to take stringent actions against illegal Mining in the State. However, no proactive steps are being taken by the State.

As per information received from Government of Jharkhand, following steps have been taken by the State Government to check illegal mining in Jharkhand:

(i) Action taken against illegal mining and Storage, transportation of minerals during last five financial years is as follows:

F.Y	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (Upto Nov, 2023)
No. of FIRs	3003	308	309	1621	1357
Vehicle Seized	786	888	1082	5847	3657

(ii) The Jharkhand Minerals (Prevention of Illegal Mining, Transportation and Storage) Rules, 2017' has been notified by the State Government under Section 23C(1) and 23C(2) of the MMDR Act, 1957 (as amended).

(iii) In addition to Mining Surveillance System (MSS) for major minerals and "Khanan Prahari" for Coal, State Government has also initiated MSS for minor minerals.

(iv) Jharkhand Integrated Mines and Mineral Management System (JIMMMS) has been implemented by the State Government for all kind of Mines and Minerals related online transaction like e-permit, e-challan, e-payment etc. to ensure transparency.

Further, Central Government has, *inter-alia*, has taken the following measures to curb illegal mining:

(i) Penalty for illegal mining has been made more stringent by amendment of the MMDR Act in 2015. Penalties for contravention of Section 4(1) and 4(1A) of the Act have been increased from Rs. 25 thousand per hectare to Rs. 5 Lakh per hectare and the term of imprisonment has been increased from 2 years to 5 years.

(ii) Section 30B of the MMDR Act, 1957 provides for constitution of Special Courts by State Governments for speedy trial of Illegal mining/Transportation/Storage cases and Section 30C of the Act provides that such Special Courts shall be deemed to be a Court of Session.

(iii) The Ministry of Mines, through Indian Bureau of Mines, has developed the Mining Surveillance System (MSS) to use space technology for reporting any illegal mining activity to the State Government who will take further necessary action. Mining Surveillance System (MSS) is a satellite-based monitoring system which aims to detect illegal mining activity beyond the lease area through use of satellite images.
