

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1635
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2025

Illegal rat hole mining in Assam

1635. SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware about the incident of death/missing of 9 laboures at Omrangsu under North Cachar Autonomous Council while doing illegal rat hole mining;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any permission from the Ministry is there for extracting coal through rat hole mining;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether there is any bar imposed by Government against rat hole mining;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether Government is making any enquiry on illegal rat hole mining in Assam; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (h) Rat hole mining is illegal and its prevention and control primarily falls under the purview of the State/District administration. The State/District Administration is mandated to take all necessary action under the extant Acts/Rules/Regulations. As per the report received from the State Government of Assam, a Rat-hole mine tragedy occurred on 06/01/2025 at 19 No. block of Assam Quarry, Kalamati under Umrangsu Police Station and the State Government took necessary actions to rescue the miners trapped inside rat-hole. The State Government has taken several actions including, drone surveillance, IT enablement of Check posts, imposition of restrictions under section 163 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, eviction operation, joint patrolling with District Civil Administration and Police, development of border villages to curb the illegal coal mining and constitution of Special Investigation Team and Inquiry Commission to investigate into the incident of Umrangso mines tragedy.
