

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COAL

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1788  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.3.2025

**Environmental impact of illegal coal mining**

**1788. Shri A. A. Rahim:**

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases of illegal coal mining reported across the country during the last five years, State-wise and year-wise;
- (b) the details of the actions taken against illegal coal mining, including the number of arrests, penalties imposed, and mines shut down, year-wise;
- (c) the estimated environmental damage caused due to illegal coal mining, State-wise;
- (d) whether Government has conducted any assessments on the impact of illegal coal mining on local biodiversity and climate, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken by Government to prevent illegal coal mining and restore the affected environment?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES  
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) and (b): Illegal coal mining is a Law & Order issue under the domain of State Governments. Powers have been conferred upon the State Governments under Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 (67 of 1957) to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals. State Governments are empowered to action taken, if any, in respect of illegal coal mining including any kind of prosecution.

(c) and (d): No such estimate or assessment has been carried out.

(e) The Government companies engaged in coal mining have been taking various steps required to prevent illegal coal mining from their areas. In addition, the Government of India has launched a mobile app namely "Khanan Prahari" and a web app, 'Coal Mine Surveillance and Management System' (CMSMS) for reporting of unauthorized coal mining activities by the public and to aid monitoring and enabling the Law & Order authorities in the State Government concerned to take suitable action on the reported incidents.

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