

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1694
ANSWERED ON 04.08.2025

ILLEGAL MINING ACTIVITIES

1694. SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of illegal mining cases reported, the details, State-wise;
- (b) action taken against violators;
- (c) the role of technology in tracking; and
- (d) revenue loss incurred?

ANSWER

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

(a),(b)&(d) The Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 empowers the State Government to frame rules to prevent illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals and for purposes connected therewith. Therefore, the control of illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals and purposes connected therewith is the primary responsibility of the State Government. The Central Government supports and augments these efforts through policy initiatives from time to time. Accordingly, the MMDR Act, 1957 was amended through the MMDR (Amendment) Act, 2015, wherein Section 30B and 30C read with Section 21 and 23C, *inter-alia*, provide stringent punitive provisions for illegal mining, transportation and storage. All major mining states have framed rules under section 23C of the MMDR Act, 1957.

No such information is available with the Government in view of the above.

(c) Some of the steps taken by Central Government to curb illegal mining, incorporating the role of technology, are as under:

(i) The Ministry of Mines has launched the Mining Surveillance System (MSS) in October 2016 through IBM. The MSS system detects likely incidences of illegal mining using space technology. The triggers generated are sent to State Governments for verification and further action.

(ii) The Ministry of Mines also issued guidelines on 03.10.2023 to major mineral rich States for prevention of misclassification of grades of iron ore and other minerals by using technology. The State Governments were requested to implement the said guidelines by suitably

incorporating the same in the rules framed by the State Governments under Section 23C of the MMDR Act, 1957. The said guidelines envisage the use of technologies like GPS, RFID, Geo-fencing, block chain technology for tracking of minerals during complete value chain including self-declaration of grades, tracking of transport vehicles, automation of invoice reconciliation etc.
