

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 837
ANSWERED ON 27/07/2026

ILLEGAL COAL MINING AND UNAUTHORISED TRANSPORTATION OF COAL

837. DR. SASMIT PATRA:

Will the Minister of **COAL** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has assessed the extent of illegal coal mining, theft, pilferage and unauthorised transportation of coal in coal-bearing States, particularly Odisha;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the number of cases detected, quantity of coal involved, value of the coal seized, and arrests/prosecutions made during the last five years, State-wise and district-wise in the State of Odisha;

(c) whether Government has identified organised networks involved in such illegal activities and, if so, the action taken; and

(d) the measures taken or proposed to strengthen surveillance, digital tracking, mine security and inter-agency coordination to curb illegal coal mining and transportation?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL AND MINES
(SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY)

(a) and (b): Details of illegal coal mining, theft, pilferage and unauthorised transportation of coal in coal-bearing States, including the number of cases detected, quantity of coal involved, value of the coal seized, and arrests/prosecutions made during the last five years, State-wise in the areas of the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL) are given below:

(i) No illegal coal mining has been reported in Odisha where coal mining is mainly concentrated in the districts of Angul, Jharsuguda, and Sundargarh. While there are no reports of theft of coal in Sundargarh District, a total of 62 incidents of theft of coal have been reported in Jharsuguda and Angul Districts, in which 47 FIRs have been filed. In Jharsuguda, the quantity of coal involved was 3.9 tonnes, whereas in Angul, it was 635.84 tonnes.

(ii) Details of incidents of illegal mining/ theft/ pilferage of coal in West Bengal, Maharashtra, and Jharkhand are given below:-

State	No. of Cases/ Incidents	Qty. of Coal Recovered (tonne)	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)
West Bengal	15065	76861.86	1306.6

Maharashtra	91	801.44	39.07
Jharkhand	10624	215215.1	4367.75

(iii) No cases of illegal coal mining and/or theft, pilferage is reported in the operational areas of the subsidiaries of CIL in Uttar Pradesh, and Assam. In Madhya Pradesh, 05 incidents of theft of about 76 tonnes of coal have been reported. In Chhattisgarh, 27 incidents of theft of about 519 tonnes of coal have been reported. The quantity of stolen coal had been recovered and there was no loss reported.

(c): Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and other security forces in close coordination with management of coal companies continuously develop intelligence regarding organised illegal mining, theft, pilferage and unauthorised transportation of coal through human Intelligence, surveillance and source cultivation. In this regard, they also liaison with State Police and other law enforcement agencies. Whenever any organised networks or suspected criminal syndicates are detected, the intelligence is promptly shared with the concerned State Police and civil authorities for investigation and appropriate legal action.

(d): The following measures have been taken to strengthen surveillance, digital tracking, mine security and inter-agency coordination to curb illegal coal mining and transportation:

(i) A Coal Sector Coordination Committee has been constituted under chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal. The Committee comprises representatives from the Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Mines, Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries, CISF, the concerned State Governments, and other security forces deployed in the coal mining areas.

(ii) A dedicated Task Force has been constituted at the District and Area levels for continuous monitoring and prevention of illegal mining and coal theft.

(iii) Khanan Prahari - a mobile app for citizen-based reporting system for illegal mining and coal theft has been launched. Also, one web app, Coal Mine Surveillance and Management System (CMSMS) has been launched for reporting unauthorized coal mining activities.

(iv) To facilitate swift and effective enforcement against illegal mining and theft of coal, the Ministry of Coal has issued notifications on 21.11.2025 & 01.07.2026 under Section 21(4) (to seize tools, equipment, vehicles, or any other things used to commit or facilitate the illegal activity), under Section 22 (Cognizance of offences), Section 24 (Power of entry and inspection) and under 23B (Power of search) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. Through these notifications, designated executives of CIL and its subsidiaries, as well as officers of CISF have been empowered.

(v) A multi-layered mechanism involving physical security, technological surveillance, intelligence gathering and enforcement actions, has been deployed to curb illegal activities. Regular targeted raids on the basis of credible intelligence are conducted with seizure of illegal coal, vehicle and equipment. The Management of subsidiary companies lodges FIR with local Police Station to take necessary action against reported illegal mining. State/District administration take further action against the lodged FIR.

(vi) To ensure a more coordinated and effective security framework, a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been formulated.

(vii) Core and Non-Core areas have been identified to facilitate the rationalization of CISF manpower for a more focused, risk-based, and efficient security deployment.

(viii) Joint Security Check Posts have been established at strategic locations in coordination with the mine management and local police.

(ix) Surveillance is done through the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) for critical infrastructure, coal transportation routes, and suspicious activities. Drone surveillance is carried out by the CISF Drone Team to identify illegal mining sites and unauthorized mine openings. Based on the surveillance findings, prompt action such as dozing/closing of illegal openings, recovery of illegally extracted coal wherever applicable, and other preventive measures are undertaken.

(x) Use of Vehicle Tracking System has been intensified to crackdown illegal transportation of coal. Surprise vehicle checking in mining and nearby areas have been intensified with the aim of curbing illegal movement of coal.

(xi) Senior CISF officers conduct surprise checks and intensified regular field visits to ensure "Zero Coal Leakage" Policy of Government. Deployment of CISF personnel has been enhanced at Coal dump, Railway siding, Raid Teams.

(xii) Concrete walls have been erected on the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent illegal activities in these areas. Security at coal dumps has been strengthened by fencing, proper illumination and round-the-clock guarding.
