

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4656
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH, MARCH 2017

MONITORING OF ILLEGAL MINING

4656. **DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:**

Will Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has evolved or proposes to evolve a mechanism for proactively monitoring and supervising the rampant illegal mining in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER, COAL, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (b): Section 23C of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957, devolves on the State Governments, the full responsibility to frame rules to prevent illegal mining. Under the section 23C, the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make such rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals and for the purposes connected therewith. Therefore, prevention and control of illegal mining comes under the legislative and administrative jurisdiction of State Governments.

However, Ministry of Mines has taken proactive measures in this regard. Ministry of Mines, through Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), has developed a Mining Surveillance System (MSS), in collaboration with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG), Gandhinagar, to use space technology for detecting probable illegal mining activities around lease hold areas. MSS is a satellite-based monitoring system which generates triggers about probable illegal mining. The triggers are forwarded to state governments for field verification and further necessary action. MSS has been made functional throughout the country for major minerals. Ministry of Mines has advised the state governments to utilize MSS for monitoring probable illegal mining of minor minerals.
