

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 716  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2017**

**MONITORING OF ILLEGAL MINING**

**716. DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has evolved a mechanism for proactively monitoring and supervising the rampant illegal mining in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) and (b): As per section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957, state governments have been empowered to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals. Prevention and control of illegal mining, therefore, comes under the administrative and legislative jurisdiction of State Governments.

However, Ministry of Mines, through Indian Bureau of Mines, has developed a Mining Surveillance System (**MSS**), in collaboration with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics, Gandhinagar, to use space technology for detecting probable illegal mining activities around lease hold areas.

**MSS** is a satellite-based monitoring system which aims to check illegal mining activity through automatic remote-sensing detection technology in order to establish a regime of responsive mineral administration. The system records activity outside the lease boundary and generates a trigger for action on part of the State Government to investigate encroachment and take necessary action.

**MSS** has been made functional throughout the country for major minerals. Ministry of Mines has requested State Governments to extend **MSS** for surveillance of quarries/reaches given for minor minerals also.

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