

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3344
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.03.2018

ILLEGAL MINING

3344. SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether inspite of various steps taken by the Union Government and the States including directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court illegal mining in some States of the country is still rampant and if so, the details thereof and the reasons the reasons therefor;
- (b) the instances of illegal mining which came to the notice of the Union Government during the last three years, State-wise along with the action taken to prevent such instances in future;
- (c) Whether Hon'ble Supreme Court after grappling with cases pertaining to illegal mining has pulled up the Union Government for its failure to curb illegal mining in the country and asked for a comprehensive policy to curb illegal mining and if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;
- (d) Whether the Union Government has since prepared any concrete plan to curb pilferage of natural resources and placed plans before the Hon'ble Supreme Court; and
- (e) if so, the details in this regard and the steps taken by the Union Government to effectively implement the plans?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES AND COAL (SHRI HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY)

(a)&(b): As per section 23C of the Mines and Minerals(Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act), State Governments are empowered to frame rules for prevention of illegal mining, storage and transportation for both major and minor minerals and for purposes connected therewith. Therefore, matter relating to regulation and control of illegal mining is completely within the domain of respective State Governments.

However, based on the information regarding quarterly returns on illegal mining provided by State Governments to Indian Bureau of Mines (a subordinate office under the Ministry of Mines), about the instances of illegal mining, FIR lodged, Vehicle seized, fine realized for last three years is provided at **Annexure**.

(c): No, Madam. Hon'ble Supreme Court has not pulled up the Union Government regarding failure to curb illegal mining in the Country; However, Hon'ble Supreme Court in W.P(C) No. 202 of 1995 [T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad vs UoI] has passed an order dated 23.02.2018 on the issues of prevention of illegal mining by the States, wherein Hon'ble Supreme Court has, *inter-alia*, directed Union of India to file an affidavit detailing whether Central Government has any policy at all with regard to prevention of illegal mining or to take strict action against mining lease holders indulging in illegal mining.

(d): No, Madam.

(e): Does not arise in view of reply given in part (d) above.

Annexure

ILLEGAL MINING CASES						Action taken from 2013-14 to Quarter ending September – 2017			
Sr. No.	State	2014 – 15	2015 – 16	2016-17	2017-18 (Quarter ending Sept – 2017)	FIR Lodged (Nos.)	Court Cases Filed (Nos.)	Vehicle Seized (No.)	Fine realized by State Govt. (Rs. Lakh)
1	Andaman & Nicobar	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.
2	Andhra Pradesh	9379	9953	9703	4063	3	12	3	14323.275
3	Assam	0	0	n. r.	n. r.	0	0	0	0
4	Chhattisgarh	4953	5862	4794	2227	2	21787	1138	3338.376
5	Goa	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0
6	Gujarat	5716	6499	8325	4586	382	29	20715	15667.05
7	Haryana	5333	3912	1345	527	654	0	0	3765.03
8	Himachal Pradesh	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.	0	0	0	0
9	Jammu & Kashmir	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.	928	0	0	928	5.088
10	Jharkhand	1162	1645	838	204	2444	343	3132	432.87
11	Karnataka	8464	9185	5692	2830	1798	468	11497	11163.03
12	Kerala	4172	3701	4861	3017	0	0	0	8054.73
13	Madhya Pradesh	8173	13627	13880	7854	516	41299	2978	113206.21
14	Maharashtra	32717	33621	31173	10797	794	1	144784	28178.52
15	Mizoram	26	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.	1	0	0	1.537
16	Odisha	104	62	45	25	0	4	77	1111.407
17	Punjab	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.	n. r	n. r	n. r	n. r
18	Rajasthan	2945	3661	3945	2025	2536	37	11248	6794.672
19	Sikkim	0	0	n. r.	n. r.	0	0	0	0
20	Tamilnadu	205	58	56	48	10734	1	35166	12285.82
21	Telangana	3311	6538	5839	3203	0	0	4	5314.43
22	Uttar Pradesh	10024	11575	5737	n. r.	562	439	0	9333.57
23	West Bengal	n. r.	575	n. r.	n. r.	1132	0	218	0
Grand Total		96684	110476	96233	42334	21559	64420	231889	232975.615

[n.r. quarterly return not received]
[Source: Indian Bureau of Mines]