

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.960
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2018

MINING AUTHORITY FOR ILLEGAL MINING

960. SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a Mining Authority and if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to start functioning;
- (b) the States where Special Task Force is probing cases of illegal mining along with the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) whether the Government is serious to stop illegal mining and prepared for severe punishment to culprits of such mining and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): No, Madam. At present, there is no proposal in the Ministry for constituting a Mining Authority.

(b): As per section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act 1957, State Governments are empowered to frame rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals and for the purposes connected therewith.

Till now, 22 State Government namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal, have constituted the Task Force for prevention of illegal mining both at state and district level.

Based on the quarterly returns on illegal mining submitted by various State Governments to Indian Bureau of Mines (a subordinate office under the Ministry of Mines), state-wise details of instances of illegal mining reported for the last three years alongwith the details of action taken against the offenders is given at Annexure.

(c): To check illegal mining in the country, the Central Government has, inter-alia, taken the following steps:

- (i) The MMDR Act, 1957 was amended with effect from 12th January, 2015 to bring in stringent enhanced punitive provisions under section 21 for combating illegal mining. Illegal mining has been made punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees per hectare of the illegally mined area.
- (ii) The Central Government has amended Rule 45 of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, (MCDR), 2017, making it mandatory for all miners, traders, stockiest, exporters and end-users to register with IBM.
- (iii) The Ministry of Mines, through IBM in association with the Bhaskaracharya Institute of Space Application & Geo-Informatics (BISAG), has developed and launched the Mining Surveillance System (MSS) for major minerals to enhance the mechanism of detecting illegal mining with the use of satellite based technology. Under the MSS, the lease areas are superimposed on Satellite imagery and excavation activities within 500m buffer zone are monitored. If any excavation within this buffer zone is observed, then the same is flagged off as trigger and sent to respective State Governments for its field verification. States have also been advised to explore the application of MSS for minor minerals. In the initial phase, 296 such triggers have been generated across the country and sent to the respective State Governments for the field verification of these triggers. Out of the 296 triggers, the respective State Governments verified 286 triggers. Out of these 286 triggers, in 48 cases, unauthorized mining has been detected/ confirmed.

Statement showing Year wise State wise Cases of Illegal Mining for Major & Minor Minerals

Illegal mining cases							Action taken from 2013-14 to 2017-18 (Up to Quarter ending Sept. – 2017)			
Sr. No.	State	2013 – 14	2014 – 15	2015 – 16	2016 - 17	2017-18 (Cum. up to Quarter ending Sept.– 2017)	FIR Lodged (Nos.)	Court Cases Filed (Nos.)	Vehicle Seized (No.)	Fine realized by State Govt. (Rs. Lakh)
1	Andhra Pradesh	7692	9379	9953	9703	4063	3	12	3	14323.275
2	Chhattisgarh	3994	4953	5862	4794	2227	2	21787	1138	3338.376
3	Goa	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0
4	Gujarat	5447	5716	6499	8325	4586	382	29	20715	15667.05
5	Haryana	4548	5333	3912	1345	527	654	0	0	3765.03
6	Jharkhand	901	1162	1645	694	204	2335	343	3048	389.74
7	Karnataka	8509	8464	9185	5692	2830	1798	468	11497	11163.03
8	Kerala	4448	4172	3701	4861	3017	0	0	0	8054.73
9	Madhya Pradesh	6725	8173	13627	13880	7854	516	41299	2978	113206.21
10	Maharashtra	36476	32717	33621	31173	10797	794	1	144784	28178.52
11	Mizoram	21	26	n. r.	n. r.	n. r.	1	0	0	1.537
12	Odisha	76	104	62	45	25	0	4	77	1111.407
13	Rajasthan	2953	2945	3661	3945	2025	2536	37	11248	6794.672
14	Tamilnadu	1078	205	58	56	n. r.	10734	1	35166	12285.82
15	Telangana	-	3311	6538	5839	3203	0	0	4	5314.43
16	Uttar Pradesh	8718	10024	11575	5737	n. r.	562	439	0	9333.57
17	West Bengal	n. r.	n. r.	575	n. r.	n. r.	1132	0	218	0
Grand Total		91587	96684	110476	96089	41358	21450	64420	230877	232927.397

n. r.* (not reported by the State Government)