

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2786
ANSWERED ON 10.07.2019

ILLEGAL MINING

2786. SHRI RITESH PANDEY:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases of illegal mining registered during the last ten years;
- (b) whether there has been an increase in illegal mining activities during the last ten years;
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to curb illegal mining in the country;
- (d) the details and the number of cases of non-compliance of forest and environment laws by mine owners/ occupiers during the last ten years;
- (e) whether there has been an increase in the number of mines that have not complied with or run afoul of environment and forest laws in the country during the last ten years and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the measures planned and in place to increase coordination between the Ministry of Mines and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINES, COAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a)to(c): As per section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, State Governments are empowered to make rules for prevention of illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals for both major and minor minerals and for purposes connected therewith.

Based on the information received from the State Governments in the quarterly returns on illegal mining submitted to Indian Bureau of Mines (a subordinate office under the Ministry), the number of cases of illegal mining registered in the last ten years are given below:

Year	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
No. of Cases	69316	78189	94604	98597	91587	96684	110476	97047	116198	115492

As per figures furnished above, it is revealed that the number of cases of illegal mining showed a rising trend for the period from 2009-10 to 2012-13, then from years 2014-15 to 2015-16 and 2016-17 to 2017-18. Currently, it is showing a downtrend as compared to previous year i.e. 2017-18.

(d)to(f): The grant of Forest and Environment clearances comes under the purview of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The details of non-compliance of environment and forest laws are not maintained in the Ministry of Mines.

Ministry of Mines holds regular Central Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee meetings under the chairmanship of Secretary (Mines) to consider all mining related issues. Central Ministries/ Departments including MoEF&CC and concerned State Governments participate in the meetings.
