

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1004
ANSWERED ON 26.07.2023

MINING SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

†1004. SHRIMATI RANJEETA KOLI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mining Surveillance System has been successful in checking illegal mining in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of cases in which the Mining Surveillance System has been used to nab people involved in illegal mining?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. The Mining Surveillance System (MSS) has been successful in checking illegal mining activities around mining leases. The system was developed to assist the State Governments to detect and curb illegal mining activities. The system checks a region of 500 meters around the existing mining lease boundary using satellite imagery to search for any unusual activity which is likely to be illegal mining. Any discrepancy found is flagged-off as a trigger. The triggers thus generated are forwarded to respective State Governments for verification through field visit. A user friendly mobile app for MSS has also been developed for Citizens and State Governments to ensure ease of access and transparency. 793 triggers have been generated in 4 phases and in 80 cases unauthorized mining activities have been confirmed by the State Governments. As per Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, State Governments are responsible for taking action in the cases of illegal mining.

Summary of phase-wise details of triggers generated and action taken thereon (since inception of MSS) are furnished below:

| | Generated | Verified | Unauthorized Mining Confirmed |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Phase-I (Major)(2016-17) | 296 | 287 | 47 |
| Phase-II (Major)(2018-19) | 52 | 45 | 5 |
| Phase-II (Minor) (2018-19) | 130 | 104 | 9 |
| Phase-III (Major)(2021-22) | 177 | 97 | 12 |
| Phase-IV (Major)-I (2022-23) | 61 | 24 | 7 |
| Phase-IV (Major)-II (2022-23) | 77* | - | - |

*recently generated triggers in June 2023
