

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2993
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2021

Illegal Mining in Forest Areas

2993. SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY:
SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA:
SHRI RANJEETSINGH HINDURAO NAIK NIMBALKAR:
SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI:
SHRI SANGAM LAL GUPTA:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of illegal mining being carried out in forest areas of the country including Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of such instances reported during the last five years, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether any measures have been taken to prevent illegal mining in forest areas of the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) to (d) Protection and management of forests is primarily the responsibility of concerned State/UT. The various actions to check illegal mining are taken as per the provisions under various Acts, such as Indian Forest Act, 1927; Wildlife Protection Act, 1972; and various rules made under these Acts and other State specific Acts and Rules.

Further, to prevent and stop forest offences including illegal mining, various measures are taken by the State Forest Departments such as setting up of check posts, barriers, use of modern technology (that includes wireless networks, remote sensing, Geographical Information System, Information Technology, Global Positioning System and Differential Global Positioning System), improved mobility of field staff by providing vehicles for patrolling, survey and demarcation of forest areas and construction of boundary pillars. Local communities are also involved in conservation, protection and management of forests through Joint Forest Management. Regular patrolling in mining prone forest areas is done and whenever required joint operations with Revenue and Police officials are also carried out. The cases for illegal mining are registered

and dealt by the respective State/UT authorities as per due process of law applicable to the area concerned. The detail of all such instances are not maintained at the Ministry level.

However, as far as instances of illegal mining in Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Rajasthan is concerned, information with respect to last five years as reported by the concerned states is as below:

State	Year	No. of illegal mining cases
Maharashtra	2017	69
	2018	103
	2019	97
	2020	156
	2021	150
Jharkhand	2016-17	560
	2017-18	359
	2018-19	453
	2019-20	414
	2020-21	546
Rajasthan	2016-17	1341
	2017-18	1805
	2018-19	1688
	2019-20	1685
	2020-21	2045
