

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1840
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2021

Illegal Mining and Storage of Coal

1840. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any assessment/inspection for illegal storage and mining of coal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether Government has taken cognizance of illegal mining/ theft/ possession by coal mafia in the country particularly in the State of Madhya Pradesh and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/ being taken by the Government to monitor the activities of illegal mining of coal and to strengthen information system?

ANSWER

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

(a): During the course of coal production by Coal India Limited, all statutory provisions under various Acts, Rules and Regulations are observed for conducting various activities. As such, there is no illegal mining in the lease-hold areas of Coal India Limited. However, illegal mining of coal is reported to be carried out mainly from abandoned mines, shallow coal seams situated at remote/isolated places. It is a Law & Order problem which is a State subject, hence primarily; falls under the domain of the State/District administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop/curb illegal mining of coal. Surprise raids/checks/inspection are conducted by security personnel as well as jointly with law and order authorities of the concerned State Government.

(b): First Information Reports (FIRs) are lodged whenever any incident of Illegal mining of coal comes to the notice of the coal companies.

Number of FIRs lodged in cases of Illegal mining of coal during 2020-21, company-wise and State-wise is given below:

(Provisional)

Name of the Company	State	FIR lodged (2020-21)
ECL	WB	12
	Jharkhand	1

	Sub Total	13
BCCL	Jharkhand	0
	WB	0
	Sub Total	0
CCL	Jharkhand	1
NCL	MP	0
	UP	0
	Sub Total	0
WCL	Maharashtra	0
	MP	0
	Sub Total	0
SECL	MP	0
	Chattisgarh	0
	Sub Total	0
MCL	Odisha	0
NEC	Assam	3
Coal India Limited		17

(c): Theft/pilferage/illegal mining of coal are carried out stealthily and clandestinely. As per raids conducted by security personnel of CIL as well as joint raids with the law and order authorities of the concerned State Government, the quantity of coal recovered and its approximate value during 2020-21 in the state of Madhya Pradesh in the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited are as under:

Theft/Pilferage of coal

(Provisional)

Co.	State	2020-21	
		Qty. Recovered (te)	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)
NCL	MP	86.25	2.733
WCL	MP	0.00	0.000
SECL	MP	0.00	0.000

There was no report of illegal mining in the state of Madhya Pradesh in the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited during 2020-21.

(d): Coal India Limited and its Subsidiaries have established e-surveillance such as CCTV Surveillance and GPS based VTS System to check coal operation in command areas to strengthen information system. The subsidiary-wise details are as under:-

Subsidiary company	Total CCTV Cameras installed at - a) Vulnerable locations viz. Weighbridges, Sidings, Workshop, Offices & Stores. b) Coal Stocks	Number of vehicles deployed with GPS based VTS System
MCL	844	2635

CCL	1602	3150
NCL	733	421
WCL	600	1320
BCCL	615	549
ECL	1380	930
SECL	1316	1152
TOTAL	7090	10157

Ministry of Coal has launched a web-based application called Coal Mines Surveillance & Management System (CMSMS) along with Mobile Application 'Khanan Prahari' in July, 2018. This web-based application and mobile application was developed by Bhaskaracharya Institute of Space Application & Geo-informatics (BISAG), Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat, with inputs from CMPDI. CMSMS is a GIS based portal in which any citizen can report an incident of illegal coal mining through Khanan Prahari Mobile Application and the location of the incident is shown on the GIS map. The Nodal Officers of CIL/State Governments then verify the incident and take suitable action on such cases. The satellite data is also used for monitoring of mining operations done by leaseholders to verify if it is within the leasehold boundaries. The report of CMSMS is regularly sent to Ministry of Coal and CVOs of all the subsidiary companies of CIL and Nodal Officers of CIL.

Also following steps are taken to check illegal mining of coal:

- Concrete walls have been erected on the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.
- Surprise raids/ checks being conducted jointly by security personnel and law and order authorities of the concerned State Government.
- Dumping of the overburden is being done on the outcrop zones.
- Installation of check-posts at vulnerable points.
- Training of existing security/ CISF personnel, refresher training and basic training of new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security setup.
- Maintaining close liaison with the State authorities.
- Committee/ task force has been constituted at different level (block level, sub-divisional level, district level, state level) in some subsidiaries of CIL to monitor different aspects of illegal mining.
