

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 542
ANSWERED ON 01.12.2021

ILLEGAL MINING IN RAJASTHAN

†542. SHRI BALAK NATH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of incidents recorded for illegal mining in Rajasthan along with the details of the action taken thereupon during the last two years;

(b) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to prevent illegal mining; and

(c) the details of the licensing procedure for mining along with the number and details of the licenses issued in Rajasthan during the last two years?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): Section 23C of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (MMDR Act) 1957, empowers the State Governments to frame rules to prevent illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals and for the purposes connected therewith. Hence, control of illegal mining comes under the legislative and administrative purview of the State Governments.

As per the information provided by the State Government of Rajasthan, the details of the number of incidents of illegal mining in Rajasthan along with the action taken thereupon during the last two years is given below:

S. No.	Details	Year (2019-20)	Year (2020-21)	Year (2021-22) Upto Oct 2021	Total
1.	No. of Incidents recorded	13229	10142	5343	28,714
2.	No. of FIRs lodged	930	760	473	2163
3.	No. of Vehicle/ machinery seized	13355	10076	5434	28865
4.	Penalty amount recovered (in Rs. crores)	85.42	79.57	39.79	204.78

Further, Government has, *inter-alia*, taken the following measures for preventing illegal mining in the country:

(i) Penalty for illegal mining was made more stringent by the Central Government through amendment of the MMDR Act. The penalties have been increased from Rs. 25 thousand per hectares to Rs. 5 Lakh per hectare and the term of imprisonment has been increased from 2 years to 5 years for contravention of Section 4(1) and 4(1A) of the Act. Section 30B of the Act provides for constitution of Special courts and 30C of the Act provides that such Special Courts shall be deemed to be a Court of Session.

(ii) Rule 45 of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, (MCDR) 2017 makes it mandatory for all miners, traders, stockist, exporters and end-users of minerals to register and report on the production, trade and utilization of minerals to the State Government(s) and Indian Bureau of Mines.

(iii) The Ministry of Mines, through Indian Bureau of Mines, has developed the Mining Surveillance System (MSS) to use space technology for curbing illegal mining activity in the country. Mining Surveillance System (MSS) is a satellite-based monitoring system which aims to detect illegal mining activity through use of satellite images.

(iv) 21 State Governments including the State Government of Rajasthan have framed rules under section 23C of MMDR Act, 1957 to curb illegal mining.

(v) 22 States including the State Government of Rajasthan have set up Task Forces to control illegal mining and review the action taken by member departments for checking the illegal mining activities at state and district levels.

(c) Under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015, for major minerals, the mineral concession can be allotted through auctioning for Prospecting License-cum-Mining Lease or Mining Lease. The power to grant these mineral concessions vests in the State Governments. Further, as per Section 15 of the MMDR Act, 1957, State Governments have been empowered for making rules for regulating the grant of quarry leases, mining leases or other mineral concessions in respect of minor minerals and for purposes connected therewith.

As per the information made available by the State Government of Rajasthan, State Government of Rajasthan has granted two leases for major minerals namely for limestone and 1114 leases for minor minerals from 01.04.2019 to 24.11.2021.
