

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2422
ANSWERED ON 16.03.2022

RAT-HOLE MINING

2422. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:
SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of incident of rat-hole mining in the North Eastern Region (NER) and if so, the number of cases reported and registered, State-wise from 2011 to 2021;
- (b) whether the Government has data on the number of accidents and casualties on account of rat-hole mining in the North-Eastern Region (NER), State-wise from 2011 to 2021 and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has provided any monetary compensation to individuals or households affected by rat-hole mining accidents and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has made any efforts to reduce the number of rat hole mining incidents and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has made any efforts to ensure that old shut down mines are not entered into by public; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof including safety measures put in place and the number of casualties reported till date?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f): As per the Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, the State Governments are empowered to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals.

Further, as per the information provided by Ministry of Coal, no rat-hole mining is being done in any coal mine of Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries. All the coal mining operations of CIL and its subsidiaries are being done scientifically and methodically by adopting the appropriate technology and mining method after obtaining the mandatory permissions for working from the Directorate General of Mine Safety (DGMS).
