

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1510
ANSWERED ON 04.12.2024

ILLEGAL MINING

†1510 SMT. GENIBEN NAGAJI THAKOR:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the steps taken by the Government to stop illegal mining;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any action against those involved in such acts during the last ten years; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (c) The Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 empowers the State Government to frame rules to prevent illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals and for purposes connected therewith. Therefore, the control of illegal mining is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Government supports and augments these efforts through policy initiatives from time to time. Some of the steps taken by the Central Government for the prevention and control of illegal mining are as follows:

(i) The MMDR Act, 1957 was amended through the MMDR (Amendment) Act, 2015, wherein Section 30B and 30C read with Section 21 and 23C, inter-alia, provides stringent punitive provisions for combating illegal mining. Illegal mining has been made punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees per hectare of the area. Provisions have also been made for setting up of Special Courts for the purpose of providing speedy trial of offences relating to illegal mining.

(ii) In terms of section 5(2)(b) of the MMDR Act, 1957, a mining plan has been made pre-requisite for grant of mining lease for major minerals. The mining plan contains details on annual programme for excavation for a five year period, apart from other essential details on mineral reserves, geology, lithology, type of mining, rehabilitation and restoration of mining area etc.

(iii) The Ministry of Mines, through IBM, has developed the Mining Surveillance System (MSS), in coordination with Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG), Gandhinagar and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY), to use space technology for curbing illegal mining activity in the country.
