

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COAL

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2174  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.3.2025

**Deaths due to Rat Hole Mining**

2174. Shri Gaurav Gogoi:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the tragic incident on January 6, 2025 in Dima Hasao, Assam, where 10 miners lost their lives after being trapped in an illegal rat-hole coal mine collapse and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the immediate steps being taken to enforce the National Green Tribunal (NGT's) 2014 ban on rat-hole mining in Assam; and
- (c) the number of illegal mining incidents reported in Assam during the last five years and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) Government of Assam has informed that a tragic rat-hole mine accident took place on 06/01/2025 at the 19 No. block of Assam Quarry, Kalamati under Umrangso Police Station when some unspecified numbers of labourers were extracting coal from a coal mine and suddenly water gushed into the mine and flooded it. Some of the labourers had managed to escape using the onsite crane, however, 9 (nine) labourers were trapped inside the flooded mine. The mortal remains of all labourers have been recovered after 44 days of continuous joint rescue operations of Central and State agencies and their bodies have been handed over to respective families.

(b) After the National Green Tribunal (NGT)'s 2014 ban on rat-hole mining in Assam, and after the tragic Mining Accident at Umrangso, Dima Hasao, Govt of Assam has taken a Cabinet decision and a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for closing of all illegal rat-hole mines has been evolved. So far 245 illegal rat-hole mines have been sealed.

(c) Government of Assam has informed of two incidents of illegal activities during last five years. One was in Tikak West Mining under Namdang Coal Grant of Tinsukia District, which is at present a non-working mine, in which 3 (three) miners died when pilferage was carried out in rate hole mining. The other incident happened in Kalamati area of Umrangshu, Dima Dasao district, in which 9 (nine) miners died during illegal rate-hole mining operations. Both the incidents had been reported to the district administration and First Information Reports (FIRs) had been lodged in Police Stations to take steps against illegal mining activities.

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