

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 596
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2025**

Accidents in Non-Coal Mines

596. Shri Tanuj Punia:

Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state:

(a) the details of common factors identified in accidents in non-coal mines and the manner in which they are being addressed; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to eradicate illegal mining practices such as rathole mining and ensure the safety of miners in regions where these methods are prevalent?

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

(a): Ministry of Labour and Employment has informed that the common factors identified in accidents in non-coal mines are fall of sides, fall of roof, fall of persons from height, transportation machinery (Winding & Rope Haulages), collisions & run-over by wheeled trackless machinery, Explosives & Blasting etc.

The Central Government has enacted the Mines Act, 1952 to ensure occupational safety & health of mine workers including coal mines. The act has provisions for training, protective equipment, medical examination etc. The Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) has been entrusted with the task of inspection of mines to ensure the compliance of the provisions of Mines Act, 1952 and rules and regulations framed thereunder for enhancing the safety of mine workers. Accordingly, DGMS has taken various steps to reduce fatalities in mines and enforce the safety of workers engaged therein, which inter alia include conducting regular enquires into the accidents and dangerous occurrences to ascertain cause and circumstances, regular inspection of mines, development of standard protocols, holding national conferences on safety in mines, observance of safety weeks, campaigns, awareness etc.

(b): Illegal mining such as rat hole mining is a law and order issue and falls under the purview of the respective state authorities. Ministry of Mines has informed that 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 Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 was amended through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015, which came into effect from 12th January, 2015. Wherein Section 30B and 30C read with section 21 and 23C, inter-alia, provides stringent punitive provisions for combating illegal mining.

(ii) Rule 45 of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR) 2017, provides for measures to ensure scientific management of the mining process. It also facilitates end-to-end national-scale accounting of all minerals produced in the country from the pit head to end-use, reducing the scope for illegal mining, royalty evasion, etc.

(iii) Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) (a subordinate office of the Ministry), has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), for a pilot project “Sudoor Drushti” to demonstrate the feasibility of using High-Resolution Satellite imagery and Digital Elevation Model (DEM) in monitoring mining activities/changes over a period of time over selected group of mines.

(iv) The Ministry of Mines has launched the Mining Surveillance System (MSS) in October 2016. It aims at developing a system for detection of the incidence of illegal mining by use of space technology and surveillance of the area up to 500m outside the lease boundary to check incidences of illegal mining. If discrepancies are detected, alerts are generated and sent to the respective State Government for ground verification.
