

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF COAL**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 06.12.2010**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**ILLEGAL COAL MINING .**

2805

Shri Parimal Nathwani

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :-

(a) whether Government has asked the State Governments to take appropriate action to check illegal/unauthorized coal mining in the country;

(b) if so, the magnitude of illegal/unauthorized coal mining, State-wise;

(c) whether the rate of illegal coal mining is very high in West Bengal and Jharkhand;

(d) if so, the reasons behind this state of affairs; and

(e) the details of specific steps taken to reduce and ultimately stop illegal coal mining in these two States?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE (IC) IN THE  
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

(SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Coal is writing to the Chief Secretaries of coal bearing States at periodical intervals and requesting them to consider framing of suitable Rules, if not already done, under the provision of the Mines and Mineral (Development & Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 to strengthen the hands of District Authorities in curbing such illegal activities. Besides, Minister of State (I/C) for Coal, in his meetings with the Chief Ministers/Governors, is also requesting the concerned State Governments to check/curb the illegal mining activities in their respective States.

(b) Illegal mining of coal is carried out stealthily and clandestinely. As such, it is not possible to specify the exact quantum of coal stolen on account of illegal mining of coal.

However, on the basis of raids conducted by security personnel as well as joint raids with law and order authorities of the concerned State Governments the quantity of coal seized in case of illegal mining during the years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 (upto Sept'10) (Prov.) is as under:

(c)&(d): Yes Sir. Cases of illegal mining are detected predominantly in the eastern region, mainly in the State of Jharkhand, covering BCCL, CCL and ECL and West Bengal covering ECL and BCCL. The major reasons behind such illegal mining are :-

1) Landlessness/marginal landholding 2) Dependence on illegal coal supply chain for sustenance 3) Lack of alternative employment opportunities 4) Illiteracy & low literacy levels 5) Better economic returns from illegal coal 6) Market demand for illegal coal 7) Failure of the Government agencies and coal companies.

(e) Law & Order is a State subject, hence primarily; it is the responsibility of the State/District administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop/curb illegal mining in their respective areas. However, the steps taken by the coal companies to prevent illegal mining are :

- i) Rat holes created by illegal mining are dozed off and filled up with stone and debris wherever possible.
- ii) Concrete walls have been erected on the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.
- iii) Regular raids/checks being conducted by security personnel and static security pickets including armed guards during the night hours are being deployed at pithead depots.
- iv) Surprise raids/checks being conducted jointly by security personnel and law and order authorities of the concerned State Government.
- v) Fencing is constructed at the various illegal mining sites along with displaying of signboards mentioning "Dangerous and Prohibited Place."
- vi) Dumping of the overburden is done on the outcrop zones, which are not required to be mined.
- vii) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing

district authorities of the same for taking preventive action.

viii) Installation of check-posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents. ix) Training of existing security personnel, refresher training of CISF personnel and basic training of new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security set up.

(x) The coal companies maintain close liaison with the State authorities.

(xi) Committee/task forces has been constituted at different level (block level, sub-divisional level, district level, State level) at some of the subsidiaries of CIL to monitor different aspects of illegal mining.