

Illegal mining in protected sanctuaries

3996. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of illegal mining in protected sanctuaries in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) what steps Government has taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No information of illegal mining in protected sanctuaries in the country has been received so far. Illegal mining is mostly taking place clandestinely in old and abundant mines, small and isolated patches, outcrop areas and areas which are not in the lease hold areas of public sector coal companies.

(c) Since, law and order is a State subject, primarily it is the responsibility of State/District administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop/curb the activities of illegal mining. Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiaries are also associated closely with the concerned State and District authorities to deal with this menace. Following measures have been taken by the Government with the help from coal PSUs to prevent illegal coal mining:

- (i) Rat holes created by illegal mining are being dozed of and filled up with stone and debris wherever possible.
- (ii) Trenches have been dug to isolate the illegal mining sites.
- (iii) Concrete walls have been erected on the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.
- (iv) Fencing of illegal mining sites and displaying of sign boards mentioning "Dangerous and Prohibited Place".
- (v) Dumping of overburden is being done on the outcrop zones.
- (vi) Erection of barbed-wire/wall fencing around pithead depots, static security manning including deployment of armed guards during the night hours.
- (vii) Sealing of illegal mining spots is resorted to. Stringent action is taken against transport vehicles caught in the act of theft or pilferage.
- (viii) Training of existing security personnel, refresher training of CISF personnel and basic training to new recruits in security discipline are arranged for strengthening the security set up.

(ix) Engaging of lady security guard for preventing women and children indulging in theft/pilferage of coal, strengthening of the security discipline by reassessing the requirement of security personnel, horizontal movement of executives with aptitude for security work and inducting qualified security personnel at junior, middle and senior levels.

(x) Ministry of Coal has been urging from time to time the Coal Producing States to check illegal mining. The State Governments were also advised to instruct their State law enforcing authorities to take stringent action under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 curbing illegal activities.

(xi) The Ministry of Coal has written to the Chief Secretaries of the coal producing States requesting them to put in place effective mechanism to check illegal mining. The States were also asked to give appropriate direction to the concerned authorities to take effective steps to check such illegal activities at places where large scale illegal mining was believed to be taken place. The State Governments were also advised to consider framing of suitable Rules, if not already done, under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to strengthen the hands of District authorities in curbing such illegal activities.

(xii) Based on the decisions taken in the meeting held on 17.05.2005 between Secretary (Coal) and Chief Secretary (Jharkhand), Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL) and Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) have taken up action to check illegal mining. Joint action for prevention of illegal mining has been initiated by the management of coal companies and District Administration. Government of Jharkhand has constituted State as well as District level Task Forces for this purpose.

(xiii) Minister of State (I/C) for Coal also had meetings with the Chief Minister, West Bengal on 24.06.2009 and with His Excellency, the Governor of Jharkhand on Bengal on 26.05.2009 to request the concerned State Government to check/curb the illegal mining activities under their respective States.

(xiv) In September 2009, Ministry of Coal again requested Chief Secretaries of coal bearing States to instruct their State law enforcing authorities to take stringent action under the provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957 to check illegal mining activities.

(xv) Chairman, CIL has written on 13.02.2010 to all its subsidiary companies to take steps to curb illegal mining activities.

(xvi) Chairman, CIL also wrote the Director, CBI on 18.02.2010 for involvement of CBI to bring much needed close coordination between the coal companies. State police and Administration to take up the matter seriously to curb the theft of coal and illegal mining activities.

Joint venture of CIL with GAIL and RCF

3997. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited entered into a joint venture with GAIL, and the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers to set up an Urea plant at Talcher in Orissa to produce Urea and Ammonium Nitrate using coal gasification.

(b) if so, the details of the project, its estimated cost, share of the companies and the capacity of the plant;

(c) whether the proposed plant would produce only Urea and Ammonium Nitrate or any other chemical substances; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) Coal India Limited (CIL) has signed a MoU with M/s Gas Authority of India Limited for joint development of a Surface Coal Gasification Project at Talcher for production of Syn gas to be used as a feedstock for fertilizer production and Ammonium Nitrate. However, details of the project can be available only after completion of Joint Venture arrangements and preparation of detailed project report etc.

Security in Ambada and Mohan coalfields

†3998. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether private security guards have been deputed for security in Ambada and Mohan collieries in the Kanhan area under Western Coal fields Limited;

(b) if so, the provisions made for their wages on daily basis and the wages being paid to them;

(c) the details of other benefits including deduction of PF, EPF or GPF given to these security guards; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.