

**MoU signed with East African countries**

1864. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been exploring the possibilities for acquisition of certain ore and minerals from abroad especially from East African countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof with Memorandum of Understanding, if any, signed with East African countries to get the mineral resources from there?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) The Ministry of Mines has been participating in the annual mining convention “Mining Indaba’ in South Africa to expose Indian companies to the mining sector in Africa.

(b) Ministry of Mines and the Ministry of Coal have general Memorandum of Undertaking with the Republic of Mozambique. Similarly the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has a general Memorandum of Understanding with the Republic of Sudan.

**Illegal mining**

1865. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that illegal mining is rampant across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government undertook any survey to ascertain the places/areas/regions where illegal mining is rampant, which not only deprive Government of its revenue but also poses serious threat to environment?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): (a) and (b) As per section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957, State Governments have been empowered to frame rules for regulating and controlling illegal mining. As such, regulation and control of illegal mining comes under the legislative and administrative jurisdiction of State Governments.

Based on the quarterly returns on illegal mining submitted by various State Governments to Indian Bureau of Mines (a subordinate office under the Ministry of Mines), State-wise details of instances of illegal mining reported in various parts of the country for last three years along with the details of action taken against the violators is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) The Central Government has not undertaken any survey in this regard.