Illegal mining in Uttar Pradesh

†2183. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 102 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th February, 2016 and State:

(a) whether in Uttar Pradesh alone, total 38256 cases of illegal mining were found from the year 2012-13 to 2015-16 (upto January, 2016);

(b) the year-wise number of cases, in which FIRs have been lodged, judicial cases were filed, vehicles impounded and number of cases in which the guilty were punished during said period;

(c) whether the action taken by Uttar Pradesh Government seems adequate in view of the large number of cases of illegal mining being found; and

(d) if not, the stand of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): As per the information received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh:

(a) The 38256 cases pertain to illegal mining, illegal transportation and illegal storage of the minerals etc. during the period 2012-13 to 2015-16 (upto January, 2016);

(b) The Year-wise number of cases in which F.I.R have been lodged and complaints filed are provided in the table below:

Years	No. of F.I.R Lodged	No. of Complaint Filed
2012-13	83	174
2013-14	124	111
2014-15	233	199
2015-16 upto Jan. 2016	93	151
TOTAL	533	635

After filing complaint, the competent court has to take cognizance and thereafter the trial court has to decide the matter. The number of vehicles/cases impounded are provided in the table below:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Years	No. of Cases	Amount recovered (In ₹ lakhs)
2012-13	9708	3193.98
2013-14	8612	2978.35
2014-15	9920	2527.35
2015-16 (upto Jan. 2016)	10016	2953.67
TOTAL	38256	11653.35

(c) and (d) State Governments are empowered, under Section 23C of the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act, 1957) to make rules for prevention of illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals; and, therefore, matters relating to illegal mining come under the legislative and administrative jurisdiction of State Governments. The Central Government has amended the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 to, *inter-alia*, provide for stringent punitive measures for combating illegal mining, wherein illegal mining has been made punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees per hectare of the area. Provisions have also been made for setting up of Special Courts for the purpose of providing speedy trial of offences relating to illegal mining.

Investment in mining sector

2184. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to invest in the mining sector and public sector industries to maximize the production capacity;

(b) if so, the State-wise and sector-wise details therein; and

(c) the details of project proposals therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) to (c) The mining sector has been liberalized since the year 1993 and it is dominated by large number of private sector miners. Under the liberalized economic environment, investment decisions are taken by the entrepreneurs based on their techno-economic feasibility and commercial considerations. However, the proposed project-wise investment details of Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Mines *viz* Hindustan Copper Limited, National Aluminium Company Limited and Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited are given in Statement.