

(b) if so, the plans thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):

(a) and (b) The Government has initiated exploration of the left over mined area and tailing dumps of Kolar Gold mines for assessment of remaining resources. The revival of Kolar Gold Mines will depend on techno-economic feasibility.

Complaints of illegal mining

1975. SHRI BISHNU CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received about illegal mining in Odisha, Bihar and Jharkhand during the last three years;

(b) the details of action taken on these complaints, year-wise;

(c) the areas wherefrom these cases have been reported; and

(d) whether any enquiry has been constituted on these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):

(a) to (d) Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation), 1957 (MMDR Act, 1957), empowers State Governments to frame rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals for the purposes connected therewith. As such, details relating to illegal mining are not maintained centrally as prevention and control of illegal mining comes under the legislative and administrative jurisdiction of State Governments.

However, 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), details of instances of illegal mining reported by the State of Odisha and Jharkhand for the last three years along with the details of action taken against the offenders/criminals and fine realised are given in Statement (*See* below). Details in this regard for the State of Bihar are not available as the same have not been reported by the State Government.

Statement

Details of instances of illegal mining reported by the State of Odisha and Jharkhand for the last three years along with the action taken against the offenders/criminals and fine realized

Mineral	State	No. of Cases	Quantum of mineral/ore excavated/stacked/transported (in lakhs ton)	Value of mineral/Ore (₹ lakhs)	FIR Lodged (Nos.)	Court Cases Filed (No.)	Fine Realised (₹ lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
(A) For the year 2013-14							
Major Minerals	Odisha	75	2.7780	31.75	0	4	54.4
	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Jharkhand	161	0.1370	228.240	129	1	1.04
Minor Minerals	Odisha	1	0.000	0.000	0	0	1.12
	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Jharkhand	740	0.895	196.100	415	3	61.99
(B) For the year 2014-15							
Major Minerals	Odisha	104	3.117	1327.36	0	0	830.71
	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Jharkhand	220	0.096	37.100	186	3	3.96
Minor Minerals	Odisha	0	0.000	0.000	0	0	0
	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Jharkhand	942	0.950	126.640	584	88	50.06
(C) For the year 2015-16							
Major Minerals	Odisha	44	2.009	88.17	0	0	43.68

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Minerals	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Jharkhand	167	0.010	34.260	79	131	5.00
Minor	Odisha	18	0.105	113.51	0	0	82.62
Minerals	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Jharkhand	1478	0.471	85.540	517	98	108.07

(-) details with respect to major minerals and minor minerals not reported by State Government.

Mining of blue sapphire in Jammu

1976. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH MANHAS: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state whether Government plans to explore the mining of World Class blue sapphire in Pader region of Kishtwar district of Jammu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): Under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, the State Governments grant the mineral concessions such as non-exclusive reconnaissance permits, prospecting licence-cum-mining lease and mining Lease. The State Government of Jammu and Kashmir has informed that they have planned to explore the mining of blue sapphire in Pader region of Kishtwar district of Jammu.

Ratification of International Solar Alliance's framework agreement

1977. SHRI T. RATHNAVEL: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has given its *ex-post facto* approval to the proposal of the Ministry for the ratification of the International Solar Alliances framework agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the benefits the country would gain from such framework in the field of solar energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) The Cabinet, in its meeting held on 28 December 2016, ratified signing of the Framework Agreement signed by India to join the ISA (International Solar Alliance).