

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1733
ANSWERED ON 01.08.2022

ILLEGAL MINING AND TRAFFICKING MINERALS

1733 SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of illegal mining and trafficking of minerals in the country;
- (b) the measures taken by Government to prevent illegal mining and smuggling of precious minerals from various parts of the county; and
- (c) the role of State Governments and local authorities in controlling illegal mining and smuggling of resources?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINES, COAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) to (c): Section 23C of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (MMDR Act) 1957, empowers the State Governments to frame rules to prevent illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals and for the purposes connected therewith. Hence, control of illegal mining and smuggling of mineral resources comes under the legislative and administrative purview of the State Governments.

However the Central Government has taken the following measures to prevent illegal mining in the country:

- (i) Penalty for illegal mining was made more stringent by amendment of the MMDR Act in 2015. Penalties for contravention of Section 4(1) and 4(1A) of the Act have been increased from Rs. 25 thousand per hectares to Rs. 5 Lakh per hectare and the term of imprisonment has been increased from 2 years to 5 years. Further, Section 30B of the MMDR Act provides for constitution of Special courts by State Governments for speedy trial of Illegal mining/Transportation/Storage cases. Section 30C of the Act provides that such Special Courts shall be deemed to be a Court of Session.
- (ii) The Ministry of Mines, through Indian Bureau of Mines, has developed the Mining Surveillance System (MSS) to use space technology for reporting any illegal mining activity to the State Government who will take further necessary action. Mining Surveillance System (MSS) is a satellite-based monitoring system which aims to detect illegal mining activity beyond the lease area through use of satellite images.
- (iii) In pursuance of the provisions of Section 23(C) of the MMDR Act 1957, 21 State Governments have framed rules to curb illegal mining.
- (iv) 22 State Governments have set up Task Forces to review the action taken by member departments for checking the illegal mining activities in their respective jurisdiction.

Further, as per the information provided by various State Governments to the Indian Bureau of Mines, a Sub-ordinate Office of Ministry of Mines, the number of cases of Illegal mining for a period from 2019-20 to 2021-22 (upto Quarter ending December 2021) is as under:

Sr. No.	State	No of cases reported during the year 2019-20	No of cases reported during the year 2020-21	No of cases reported during the year 2021-22 (Up to Quarter ending December - 2021)	Action taken (from the year 2019-20 to 2021-22 upto Quarter ending December 2021)			
					FIR Lodged (Nos.)	Court Cases Filed (Nos.)	Vehicle Seized (No.)	Fine realized by State Govt. (Rs. Lakh)
1	Andhra Pradesh	8354	10736	7328	37	24	3191	41217.044
2	Chhattisgarh	6449	5376	3536	0	6449	0	2995.692
3	Goa	0	0	01	1	0	0	6.952
4	Gujarat	7476	7164	6148	308	38	14,910	31016.31
5	Haryana	1251	1384	324	509	0	0	2051.077
6	Himachal Pradesh	2424	4339	2214	84	1028	13	268.382
7	Jharkhand	3269	n.r.	1521	1124	744	3756	901.260
8	Karnataka	4935	5584	4365	2412	1280	658	7878.919
9	Kerala	8575	7400	4815	0	0	0	16303.640
10	Madhya Pradesh	8223	11157	4050	1	9283	11	115209.220
11	Maharashtra	10456	11002	3605	5511	0	25063	27479.51
12	Odisha	16	18	112	0	0	26	188.085
13	Rajasthan	4027	5815	6673	1343	267	10,022	18415.150
14	Tamilnadu	66	70	1272	18398	1608	13,563	1023.542
15	Telangana	7039	5620	2520	0	0	0	2441.6
16	Uttar Pradesh	*n.r.	n.r.	5330	82	533	0	2619.710

*n.r.- Quarterly Return not received
