

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1528
ANSWERED ON 04.12.2024

GEO-TAGGING TO MONITOR ILLEGAL MINING

1528 SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is utilizing geo-tagging or other geospatial technologies to monitor and prevent Illegal mining activities across the country and if so, the details of such initiatives;
- (b) the States where geo-tagging has been implemented for monitoring mining activities along with the results achieved;
- (c) whether the Government has partnered with any technology agencies or organizations to enhance geo-tagging and satellite surveillance for curbing illegal mining; and
- (d) the extent to which geo-tagging has been effective in reducing illegal mining incidents alongwith the relevant data during the last three years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (d) Yes Sir. Geo-spatial technologies such as GIS and Satellite imagery are used to monitor and prevent illegal mining activities. The Ministry of Mines has launched the Mining Surveillance System (MSS) in October 2016 for major mineral mines. It is a system for detection of incidence of illegal mining by use of space technology and surveillance of area up to 500m outside the lease boundary to check incidences of illegal mining. The MSS has been developed through Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) in collaboration with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG) Gandhinagar. Minor mineral mines, being under the purview of state governments, are monitored locally as per state rules and technological initiatives.

Since the inception of MSS in 2016-17, the project has been implemented in major mineral rich states which includes State Government of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh. The MSS analyzes land pattern changes within a 500-meter radius of mining leases. If discrepancies are

detected, alerts are generated and sent to the respective State Government for ground verification. These alerts do not automatically indicate illegal mining but highlight suspected activities that require on-ground confirmation. During the last 3 years from 2021-22 (phase-III) to 2023-24 (phase-IV), total 472 alerts were generated by the system and communicated to State Governments for further action.
