

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7235
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2005
ILLEGAL MINING
Acharia Shri Basudeb

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to illegal mining taking place especially in command areas of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. and Eastern Coalfields Ltd., subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether attention has also been drawn to deplorable conditions of such areas, which can cause huge loss of lives and properties; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a)&(b): As per information furnished by Ministry of Coal, Coal India Limited (CIL), a Public Sector Company under the administrative control of Ministry of Coal is aware of the incidents of illegal mining in some areas of Eastern Coalfields Ltd., (ECL) and Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL). Illegal mining activities are being done in the nature of clandestine extraction and pilferage of coal from the abandoned/disused mines or from outcrop regions within the lease hold as well as outside the lease hold areas of the coal companies. Cases of illegal mining have been reported mostly in the States of West Bengal and Jharkhand. Government of West Bengal has constituted a Joint Monitoring Committee at the State, District and Sub-Divisional level to curb illegal mining. In case of Jharkhand, BCCL has been holding meetings with local administrative and District Law and Order Authorities at regular intervals.

(c) & (d): The subsidiaries of CIL are taking actions to curb illegal mining by deploying security personnel of the companies and CISF. This being a State subject, the State Administration are also taking necessary deterrent action themselves and jointly with the concerned coal companies. Following further actions are also being taken by the coal companies to prevent illegal mining:

- i) Intelligence collection;
- ii) Dozing off/filling up of illegal mining sites wherever possible;
- iii) Round the clock patrolling by own security force and CISF;
- iv) Erection of fencing walls in abandoned/disused openings;
- v) Surprise checks/raids by security force/CISF;
- vi) Whenever illegally mined coal and implements of illegal mining are seized during the course of raids, the same are handed over to local police and FIRs lodged.
- vii) Close liaison is kept with District Authorities seeking their help and cooperation in preventing illegal mining.