

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:716
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2017
Monitoring of Illegal Mining
Rajoria Dr. Manoj

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has evolved a mechanism for proactively monitoring and supervising the rampant illegal mining in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER, COAL, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) and (b): As per section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957, state governments have been empowered to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals. Prevention and control of illegal mining, therefore, comes under the administrative and legislative jurisdiction of State Governments.

However, Ministry of Mines, through Indian Bureau of Mines, has developed a Mining Surveillance System (MSS), in collaboration with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics, Gandhinagar, to use space technology for detecting probable illegal mining activities around lease hold areas.

MSS is a satellite-based monitoring system which aims to check illegal mining activity through automatic remote-sensing detection technology in order to establish a regime of responsive mineral administration. The system records activity outside the lease boundary and generates a trigger for action on part of the State Government to investigate encroachment and take necessary action.

MSS has been made functional throughout the country for major minerals. Ministry of Mines has requested State Governments to extend MSS for surveillance of quarries/reaches given for minor minerals also.
