

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1734
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2025

Pollution caused by Mines

1734. Shri Manish Jaiswal:

Will the Minister of **Coal** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to launch new plans to mitigate the environmental impacts (dust pollution, degradation in air quality and water level) caused by coal mines in Hazaribagh and Ramgarh in Jharkhand;
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government to strengthen safety and health measures for people living near such coal mines; and
- (c) the new techniques or monitoring systems being implemented to check illegal mining?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): The Ministry of Coal is committed to ensuring environmentally responsible coal mining. Coal mining projects are mandated to obtain prior Environmental Clearance under the EIA Notification, 2006; Forest Clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, wherever applicable; and Consent to Operate from the State Pollution Control Board under the provisions of Air (Prevention and Control of Air Pollution) Act, 1981 and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. State Pollution Control Boards oversee the compliance of emissions/effluent standards. In order to monitor the continuous air quality of project site in coal mines, Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) are being installed.

Coal companies having mining operations in Hazaribagh and Ramgarh, undertake safety campaigns in mines for enhancing safety awareness amongst employees and nearby villagers. The measure taken by coal companies include extensive dust suppression through mobile/mist sprinklers, fog canons, construction of PCC roads; tarpaulin-covered coal transport; development of green belts and dust screens. Technological interventions such as First Mile Connectivity projects, SILO loading systems, belt conveyors, and introduction of surface miners have significantly reduced environmental footprints. Large-scale reclamation, multi-species plantation, Miyawaki plantation and development of eco-parks in Barkasayal and Hazaribagh areas are being carried out to restore ecological balance.

(c) Illegal mining of coal is reported to be carried out mainly from abandoned mines, shallow coal seams, situated at remote/ isolated places from the mines and are scattered over a large area. These are law & order problems, which is a State subject and, hence, primarily falls under the domain of the State/District administration.

However, Central Government has adopted several measures to strengthen monitoring and prevention of illegal coal mining. The Ministry of Coal has launched the *Khanan Prahari*

mobile application and the *Coal Mine Surveillance and Management System (CMSMS)* web portal, which enable citizens and authorities to report illegal mining incidents in real time. Under the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, the Central Government has recently authorized designated officers for exercising powers related to filing of complaints before a court of law and prosecution, search, inspection, and examination of persons and documents, etc., concerning illegal mining and other offences under the Act.

Coal India Limited, through its subsidiary companies, is taking various measures to check illegal mining of coal. Surveillance has been strengthened by deploying drone-based monitoring systems to identify illegal activity both within and outside leasehold areas. Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCC) have been established for round-the-clock monitoring using continuous feeds from CCTV, GPS, Vehicle Tracking Systems, and RFID devices. Regular surprise checks, 24×7 patrolling, filing of FIRs, coordination with district police and public awareness initiatives in nearby villages are also being carried out to deter illegal mining and coal theft effectively. Check-posts have been set up at vulnerable points, and physical preventive measures such as concrete sealing of abandoned mine openings, overburden dumping in outcrop zones, and trenching along mine peripheries are undertaken to restrict unauthorized access.
