

	No. of Violations Issued	No. of Improvement Notices	No. of Prohibitory Orders
2009	24766	155	131
2010	26527	189	210
2011	26383	441	515

Illegal mining of iron and manganese ores

412. SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a lot of illegal mining of iron and manganese ores;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps/measures taken by Government for controlling this illegal mining of iron/manganese ores?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Some major instances of illegal mining of iron and manganese ore have been reported in the country. Since State Governments have been empowered to deal with cases of illegal mining, specific details are not centrally maintained in the Ministry. However, the Central Government has taken the following steps to curb and check illegal mining in the country:

- (i) State Governments were asked to frame rules to control illegal mining as per Section 23 C of MMDR Act (so far 18 States have framed Rules).
- (ii) State Governments were requested to set up Task Forces at State and District level to control illegal mining since the year 2005 (so far 21 States have reported to have set up Task Forces).
- (iii) State Governments were advised to set up State Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee (SCEC) to coordinate efforts to control illegal mining by including representatives of Railways, Customs and Port authorities (13 State Governments have set up such Committees).
- (iv) All State Governments advised to adopt an Action Plan with specific measures to detect and control illegal mining including, use of remote

sensing, control on traffic, gather market intelligence, registration of end-users and setting up of special cells etc.

- (v) Ministry of Mines has so far held five meetings with the State Governments to specifically review the action taken by the State Governments on illegal mining on 3.8.2009, 27.11.2009, 22.2.2010, 16.4.2010 and 21.9.2010. This periodical review has been dovetailed in the meeting of Central Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee meetings.
- (vi) A Central Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee set up under Secretary (Mines) on 4.3.2009 has held nine meetings on 24.7.2009, 22.12.2009, 18.6.2010, 22.12.2010, 3.5.2011, 20.9.2011, 16.1.2012, 27.3.2012 and 28.6.2012 to consider all mining related issues, including matters relating to coordination of activities to combat illegal mining.
- (vii) Railways have instituted a mechanism to allow transportation of iron ore only against permits issued rake-wise and verified by State Government, apart from taking measures to fence and set up check post at the railway sidings.
- (viii) Customs Department has issued instructions to all its field units to share information on ore export with State Governments.
- (ix) Ministry of Shipping has issued a direction to all major Ports to streamline the verification procedures for movement of consignment by road and rail to Ports for exports.
- (x) Government has notified amendment in Rule 45 of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988, on 9.2.2011 making it mandatory for all miners, traders, stockist, exporters and end-users to register with IBM and report their transaction in minerals on monthly basis for a proper end-to-end accounting of minerals. As on 11.6.2012, out of 9409 mining leases in the country, 8027 mining leases have registered online with the IBM. The IBM has suspended 1587 mines for non-compliance and initiated prosecution in 4 cases and recommended 21 cases to State Governments for termination. IBM has also requested the State Governments not to issue transit passes for movement of minerals to unregistered operators.
- (xi) Indian Bureau Mines had constituted Special Task Forces for inspection

of mines in endemic areas by taking the help of Satellite imageries. Special Task Force conducted inspections in a total of 454 mines in the States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand and Gujarat and suspended 155 mines under rule 13(2) of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 due to serious violations. Further, the Indian Bureau of Mines have recommended for termination of eight leases.

- (xii) In so far as the online approval of mining plans and display of approved mining plans in the public domain is concerned, it is submitted that the Ministry is developing 'Mining Tenement System (MTS)' to automate the various processes associated with the mineral concession regime with features also to reflect the information as desired above.
- (xiii) The Central Government has also set up Shri Justice M. B. Shah Commission of Inquiry (COI) for illegal mining of iron ore and manganese vide gazette notification dated 22.11.2010. The COI submitted its First Interim Report on 14.7.2011, which has been tabled in the Parliament alongwith the Memorandum of Action Taken. The tenure of the COI has been extended till 16th July, 2013 by the Government. COI has so far visited Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Jharkhand, Karnataka and Odisha.

MsDP in Tamil Nadu

413. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of districts identified as high in minority concentration under the Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP);
- (b) how many such districts have been identified in Tamil Nadu; and
- (c) what schemes have been launched under MsDP in the State during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) 90 districts have been identified as Minority Concentration Districts in 20 States/UTs under Multi-sectoral Development Programme in the country. Details are given in Statement (*See* below)

(b) No district has been identified as Minority Concentration District (MCD) in Tamil Nadu as none of the districts of the State fulfilled the set criteria of substantial minority population and backwardness.

- (c) Does not arise.