

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1613
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2019

Illegal Mining

1613. SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether illegal mining of coal is being carried on with impunity in the remote regions in the State of Tripura, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether a dozen miners working in the illegal rat-hole mines were either killed or reported missing recently when sudden cave-in and flooding occurred, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry took all possible efforts to rescue the miners trapped in the rat-hole mines, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether bodies of all the miners have been recovered, if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the ex-gratia compensation paid to the poor miners is far too inadequate; and
- (f) whether the Ministry would pay the bereaved families adequate compensation, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COAL, FINANCE AND CORPORATE
AFFAIRS**

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): Ministry of Coal has not received any such report of illegal mining of coal in the State of Tripura.

(b) to (c) : Govt. of Meghalaya informed Coal India Limited (CIL) about an incident wherein 15 miners were allegedly trapped in an illegal rat hole mine in East Jaintia Hills. Matters relating to illegal mining and accidents occurring in illegal mines are law and order issues to be dealt by respective State Government. However, Govt. of Meghalaya requested CIL on 26.12.2018 for assisting in operation to rescue the trapped miners and to provide pumps, pipelines and technical persons along with survey personnel. CIL took immediate action for arranging pumps etc. from different subsidiaries of CIL and on 27.12.2018, CIL dispatched 8 nos. of pumps from different subsidiaries of CIL by road. 4 survey personnel and 6 technical staff of CIL also rushed to mishap site by road. Other Govt. agencies like NDRF and Navy were also pressed into service.

(d) : The information is being obtained from State Government of Meghalaya.

(e) and (f) : The manner and mode of compensation for the families of the trapped/dead persons involved in accident in illegal rat hole mine is within the purview of concerned State Government.

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