

MEASURES TAKEN TO STOP ILLEGAL COAL MINING AND ILLEGAL COAL TRANSPORTATION IN THE STATE:-

1. State Government has been enforcing provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 to control illegal coal mining and illegal transportation of coal. Cases are being registered under Section 21 of the Act against persons involved in illegal coal mining and illegal transportation whenever detected.
2. Total 301 cases have been registered under Section 21 of the MMDR Act, 1957 since March, 2019 up to 31st August, 2021 against illegal coal transportation and illegal coal mining.
3. The Authorised officers have been notified by the Government under Section 21(4) of the MMDR Act, 1957 for seizing any mineral which has been mined or transported unlawfully along with vehicles, tools and equipment.
4. In exercise of power conferred under Section 22 of the MMDR Act, 1957, officers are authorised to make written complaint before Court for offences punishable under MMDR Act, 1957.
5. The Chief Secretary of the Meghalaya has passed strict directions to Deputy Commissioners and Superintendent of Police to control illegal coal mining and enforce ban imposed by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.
6. Joint operation teams consisting of Police, Mining Department and Transport at the District level under supervision of respective Deputy commissioner/Superintendent of Police have been created to seize and confiscate any illegal mines including machineries/equipment in all mining districts.
7. Regular raids and surprise inspection of mines are being conducted by Joint Patrolling Teams and District Special Task Forces.
8. The Deputy Commissioners have been issuing prohibitory orders to stop illegal coal mining/illegal transportation from time to time.

9. The Chief Secretary has issued directions to Police and DMR to increase patrolling in coal bearing areas, to register cases under Section 21 of MMDR Act, 1957 and to confiscate and sell seized coal, vehicles and equipment.
10. Directions have been issued to all the Deputy Commissioners and Superintendent of Police in coal bearing Districts to confiscate and sell the seized coal and trucks, dumpers, equipment.
11. Patrolling and vigilance has been enhanced in coal bearing areas
12. A Monitoring Committee under chairmanship of Chief Secretary constituted for monthly monitoring and review the actions taken and cases booked against illegal coal mining and transportation by Police and DMR. Regular meetings of Monitoring Committee have been held to review the action taken and cases booked.
13. A Centralized Helpline Number has been created to receive complaints/information on illegal coal mining and illegal transportation.
14. A Scheme has been introduced to provide Rs. 5000 Cash Reward to persons providing credible information on illegal coal mining and illegal transportation.
15. Procedure has been laid down under the Section 21(5) of the MMDR Act, 1957 to recover illegally mined or illegally transported mineral and to recover price of mineral in case it is disposed.
16. The Chief Secretary of Meghalaya has issued directions to Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police and DMR to ensure that no illegal coal transportation take place in the State.
17. The Director of Mineral Resources has passed instructions to Divisional Mining Officers and all the Mines Royalty Inspector at DMR Checkgate to check illegal transportation of coal and impose penal action against violators.
18. DMR has introduced high security challans with QR codes, fugitive ink and hologram to prevent misuse of Transport challans. CCTVs have been installed at checkgates.
19. A Centralized server and online portal has been established for QR code generation, uploading of transport challan and online monitoring of coal transportation. Route of coal loaded trucks from source to destination is being tracked using GPS tracking and RFID tags.

20.SOP has been notified for issuance of Mineral Transport Challan and monitoring of transportation of seized coal and extracted coal auctioned by CIL.

21.The Mining and Geology Department has launched a project called Meghalaya Mineral Truck Scanning and Monitoring System(MMT-SMS) to set up *smart integrated checkgates* to detect vehicles carrying coal without valid documents.
