

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2734**  
ANSWERED ON 11.12.2024

**RESTORATION OF LAND DEGRADED BY MINING**

2734 SHRI KULDEEP INDORA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to address the challenge of restoring land degraded by mining in the country;
- (b) if so, the measures being taken to address the same; and
- (c) the details of the measures being taken to address the issue of reduced forest cover, shrunk water bodies and increased vulnerability to climate change among some of the long-term effects of mining?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): Under Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR), 2017, every lease holder is required to prepare a Progressive Mine Closure Plan (PMCP) and Final Mine Closure Plan (FMCP). The lease holders are mandated to submit a yearly report informing about the extent of protective and rehabilitative works carried out as per the mine closure plan. If the reclamation and rehabilitation (R&R) measures as envisaged in PMCP or FMCP are not implemented, then the financial assurance given by the lease holder is forfeited by the State Government.

Further, as per Rule 12(1)(m) of the Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydro Carbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules, 2016, the lessee is mandated to restore, to the extent possible, the landform affected by mining operations.

(c): As per existing law, before execution of the mining lease, it is mandatory to obtain the requisite statutory clearances from various departments of the Central Government and respective State Governments, including Environmental Clearance and Forest Clearance.

As part of grant of Environmental Clearance, the prospective lessees carry out Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and submit the Environment Management Plan (EMP) based on scientific study by taking into consideration of likely the impact of project activity on the baseline environment. The mining lease holders are also

required to implement the environmental mitigation measures as approved during grant of Environmental Clearance. As part of the Forest Clearance, the prospective lessee is required to undertake compensatory afforestation in lieu of the diversion of forest land for mining.

Further, the mining projects are mandated to obtain the No Objection Certificate for ground water extraction subject to specific conditions under the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Jal Shakti to regulate and control ground water extraction in India.

In addition, the Ministry of Mines has implemented Sustainable Mining Practices by making provisions under Chapter-V of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR), 2017. Provisions have been incorporated in the rules for precaution against air pollution, prevention of discharge of toxic liquid, precaution against noise, control of surface subsidence etc.

Rule 35 of MCDR, 2017 provides for star rating of the mining leases based on the sustainable mining practices adopted by the miners. As per Rule 35(4) of MCDR, 2017 every holder of a mining lease is mandated to achieve at least three-star rating within a period of four years from the date of commencement of mining operations and thereafter maintain the same on year-on-year basis.

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