

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2960
ANSWERED ON 06.08.2025

VIOLATION OF MINING REGULATIONS IN GOA

2960. SHRI CAPTAIN VIRIATO FERNANDES:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the first leaseholder has been violating most of the statutory provisions governing sustainable mining since commencement of mining activity in Goa and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the State Government is commencing mining regulation with less/inadequate staff, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that mining has commenced with no officials of IBM or the Director of Mines & Geology at mine sites and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether most of the new mining blocks are commencing mining operations without obtaining surface rights from Goan villagers and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether it is a fact that all ore extracted from new mining blocks is being sold without grading by the authorities and self declaration is accepted for payment of royalty and other charges and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a): As per existing law, before execution of the mining lease by the State Government, it is mandatory for the prospective lessees to obtain the requisite statutory clearances, including Environmental Clearance. The lease holders are required to ensure compliance of the terms and conditions of the clearances and approvals accorded by the respective authorities, failing which necessary action is taken by the concerned authorities of the State Government or Central Government under the respective Acts and applicable Rules / Guidelines.
- (b): As per information provided by Government of Goa, manpower assessment for 2024 & 2025 has been done by the Directorate of Mines and Geology as per which final sanction staff strength is 125. To meet the deficiency, technical staff has been recruited by the Directorate on contractual basis.

(c): As per the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, mining can only be undertaken under a valid mining lease. As per Rule 20 of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2017 (MCDR 2017), a lease holder is required to send a notice for opening of mine to the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) within fifteen days of such opening. As per the provisions of MCDR 2017, monthly returns are submitted by the lessees to IBM.

As per information provided by Government of Goa, the Directorate of Mines and Geology has introduced Ore Monitoring System software i.e. Bhumija wherein the production and dispatch of ore are monitored. Each truck is fitted with Global Positioning System and the ore movement is tracked online. There are weighbridge setup at the leases where every dispatch is weighed and online transit permits are issued. Further, the statutory payments such as royalty, District Mineral Fund, Goa Iron Ore Permanent Fund, National Mineral Exploration Trust and other payment are made online through this system.

(d): Government of Goa has informed that all matters related to compensation are subject to decision by the Additional Collector as per the Notification No. 03/27/2024/Major/Mines/3092 dated 23.01.2025 of the State Government.

(e): As per information provided by Government of Goa, the Directorate of Mines and Geology draws samples from the ore stacks which are analysed for grade from National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited lab based on which the royalty is taken from the lessees.

Further, Ministry of Mines has issued guidelines on 03.10.2023 to major mineral rich States for prevention of mis-classification of grades of iron ore and other minerals by using technology. The State Governments have been requested to implement the said guidelines by suitably incorporating the same in the rules framed by the State Governments under Section 23 C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.
