

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1149
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2023

Regrassing of mined areas

1149 Smt. Sangeeta Yadav:

Will the Minister of **Coal** be pleased to state that:

- (a) whether it is a fact that National Mines Policy-2019 makes regrassing of mined areas mandatory;
- (b) if so, whether the Coal PSUs are complying with the policy;
- (c) whether the concerned village communities are consulted while preparing the land reclamation and regrassing plan; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, COAL AND MINES
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) to (d): The National Mineral Policy, 2019 mentions that "the guiding principle shall be that a miner shall leave the mining area in an ecological shape which is as good as it was before the commencement of mining or better with least impact on flora and fauna of the area". The National Mineral Policy, 2019 has been framed for non-fuel and non-coal minerals.

Coal companies are committed towards preservation of bio-diversity and natural resources and conditions stipulated by the Government, related to plantation and grassing activities in mines.

In all cases of new/expansion projects for coal mining Terms of Reference (TOR) are issued by MoEF&CC as per application made by project proponent, addressing all relevant environmental concerns for preparation of an EIA & EMP report.

Draft EIA & EMP report is thus prepared which includes land restoration and reclamation plan and submitted to SPCB for conduction of Public Consultation (PC) (including Public Hearing), by which the concerns of all stake holders (mainly local communities) are ascertained taking into account all material concerns in the project. After completion of the public consultation, the applicant addresses all issues raised during this process, and prepares final EIA/EMP based on which EC is granted.
