

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1825
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2023

Environmental and health hazards of lithium mining

1825. Dr. L. HANUMANTHAI AH:
Dr. AMEE YAJNIK:
SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the environmental and health hazards involved in the mining of lithium metal;
- (b) the details of steps taken by Government to ensure sustainable mining practices in the country; and
- (c) the measures taken by Government for the safe disposal of lithium iron batteries used in mobiles, cars and other electronic devices?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change grants Environmental Clearance (EC) based on the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) /Environment Management Plan (EMP) report under the provisions of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 laying stringent conditions with due consideration of sustainable mining practices. Baseline data on ambient air quality, water quality, noise level, soil, flora and fauna and socio economic data including health status of local people, primary available medical facilities is collected and incorporated in the EIA and EMP Report. Further, Ministry of Mines has implemented Sustainable Mining by making provisions under Chapter-V of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR), 2017.

(c) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India notified the Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022 on 22nd August, 2022 to ensure environmentally sound management of waste batteries. The rules cover all types of batteries, viz. Electric Vehicle batteries, portable batteries, automotive batteries and industrial batteries. The rules are based on the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) where the producers (including importers) of batteries have been responsible for collection and recycling/refurbishment of waste batteries and use of recovered materials from wastes into new batteries. EPR mandates that all waste batteries are to be collected and recycled/refurbished, and it prohibits disposal in landfills and incineration.
