

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 128
ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024

PREVENTIVE STEPS IN EXTRACTION OF LITHIUM

128. SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that environmentalists fear that unless sustainable mining practices are followed, Lithium extraction will inevitably increase greenhouse gas emissions, and will also cause soil and water contamination because of the presence of toxic chemicals; and
- (b) if so, the details of the preventive steps that are proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND COAL

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) & (b): As per existing law, sustainable mining practices are required to be adopted by all miners including for lithium extraction. In general, mining activities have an associated environmental impact. Accordingly, it is mandatory to obtain the Environmental Clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 before the execution of mining lease.

Further, Ministry of Mines has also implemented Sustainable Mining 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. Further, as per Rule 35(4) of MCDR, 2017 every holder of a mining lease shall 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.
