

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1559
ANSWERED ON 05.08.2024

ECO-FRIENDLY MEASURES FOR THE TREATMENT OF TOXIC MINE-WATER

1559. SHRI JAGGESH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the water flowing through active or abandoned mine sites can become polluted by the material being mined;
- (b) whether Government has taken necessary steps for the treatment of toxic mine-water;
- (c) whether the treated water has been released for community purposes; and
- (d) the details of other eco-friendly measures undertaken by Government?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) & (b): In general, mining activities have an associated environmental impact. Accordingly, for mining, the project proponents are required to obtain Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. It is obligatory for the mines to treat the mine water as per the norms prescribed by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

Further, it is mandatory to obtain the Environmental Clearance under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 before the execution of mining lease. As part of grant of Environmental Clearance, the project proponents carry out Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and submit the Environment Management Plan (EMP) based on scientific study by taking into consideration the 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. Lease holders are also required to submit six monthly compliance report to Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)/Pollution Control Committee (PCC) and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

(c): The mine water is released during the mining operations as per the project specific conditions stipulated in the Environmental Clearance after the necessary treatment process. Such water is

utilized for the dust suppression in the mine area and roads and for supply to the nearby villages/townships for irrigation and green belt development wherever applicable.

(d): In addition to the above measures, Ministry of Mines has implemented Sustainable Mining by making provisions under Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR), 2017 which include rules for precaution against air pollution, prevention of discharge of toxic liquid, precaution against noise, control of surface subsidence etc.

Under MCDR, 2017, every lease holder is required to prepare a Progressive Mine Closure Plan (PMCP) and Final Mine Closure Plan (FMCP). 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, 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.
