

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 128
ANSWERED ON 21.07.2025

LIVELIHOOD AND HEALTH SECURITY FOR MINERS IN GUJARAT

128. DR. PARMAR JASHVANTSINH SALAMSINH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to formulate a policy to ensure livelihood and job security for miners across the country, particularly in regions affected by frequent mine closures;
- (b) whether Government has any plans to bring a comprehensive policy focused on the health and safety of miners, especially in bauxite and quartz mining areas such as Panchmahal district in the State of Gujarat; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to address the occupational hazards and long-term health issues faced by miners focusing on districts where mineral extraction activities are intensive?

ANSWER

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

(a): Section 9B of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 [MMDR Act, 1957] empowers the State Governments to establish District Mineral Foundation (DMF) to work for welfare and benefit of persons, and areas affected by mining related operations and make rules for composition and functions of the DMFs in the State. Under section 20A of the MMDR Act, Union Government circulated Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) guidelines on 16.09.2015 with directions to State Governments to incorporate the same into the DMF rules framed by them.

The revised PMKKKY guidelines issued by the Central Government on 15.01.2024 provides that a reasonable sum not exceeding 10% of the annual receipts should be kept as endowment fund for providing sustainable livelihood. The districts having annual collection of Rs. 10 Crore or more are required to maintain an endowment fund. The guidelines mandate that the endowment fund should be used for creating and sustaining livelihoods in areas where mining activity has stopped due to any reason including exhaustion of mineral.

(b) & (c): The Central Government has enacted the Mines Act, 1952 to ensure occupational safety and health of mine workers in the country including bauxite and quartz mines. The

Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) has been entrusted with the task of inspection of mines to ensure the compliance of the provisions of the Mines Act, 1952 and rules and regulations framed thereunder for enhancing the safety of mine workers.

As per the information received from Ministry of Labour and Employment, provisions have been specified in the Mines Rule, 1955 for the medical examinations of mine workers to diagnose and detect the diseases in its initial stages so that preventive, rehabilitative measures and medical care can be taken in time. Further, proactive measures viz. safety awareness programme, observance of safety week, first aid competition, rescue competition, mock drill on emergency preparedness, safety talk & training, workshop/seminar to make the mine workers more aware and to improve the overall safety standard in mine are organized / conducted by DGMS officers on regular basis.
