

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 2438
ANSWERED ON - 11/08/2025

LAND ACQUISITION AND DISPLACEMENT DUE TO COAL MINING

2438. SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to amend/update the 1957 Act to align with modern laws protecting tribal and forest-dwelling communities and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) number of coal-mining projects since 2020 that have been approved without the consent of Gram Sabha, as required under the Forest Rights Act or PESA Act, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any mechanisms exist to ensure that compensation for land acquired for coal-mining is fair, transparent and market-aligned and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) details on number of cases of delayed/disputed compensation that have been reported by displaced families in major coal-producing States like States of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha?

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

(a) As per the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013 or Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957 , provisions are already there for the project affected families to choose the better of the benefits.

(b) There have been no instances where forest land has been utilized for coal mining without obtaining the necessary clearance under the various relevant Acts.

(c) Yes, mechanisms are in place to ensure that compensation for land acquired for coal mining is fair, transparent, and market-aligned. Where government companies acquire land under the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957, compensation for land and assets is provided in accordance with the provisions of the First Schedule of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013. Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) benefits are extended as per the Second Schedule of the RFCTLARR Act, while amenities in the new rehabilitation sites are provided in line with the Third Schedule. In addition, R&R Policy of Coal India Limited (CIL), 2012 also provides for R&R benefits to the eligible Project Affected Families (PAFs). Guidelines issued by the respective State Governments and the Government of India are also duly followed. Moreover, under Section 108 of the RFCTLARR Act, 2013, PAFs are given the option to choose better compensation or R&R benefits under applicable State/CIL policies. To ensure inclusive and participatory decision-making, village-level R&R Committees, comprising affected persons are constituted.

(d) There is no delay in the disbursement of compensation wherever land holders submit valid and complete land ownership documents in a timely manner. In cases of dispute, matters are referred to the Tribunals constituted under the CBA (A&D) Act, 1957 and the compensation amount is deposited before the Tribunal against the concerned parcel of land. A total of 2,839 cases are pending before such Tribunals.
