

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 61
ANSWERED ON- 01.12.2025

COMPLIANCE FOR AIR POLLUTION STANDARDS

61 SMT. REKHA SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government seeks to introduce guidelines to lay out a compliance mechanism for existing coal mines to curb air pollution, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (b) whether a system of collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change could be introduced to ensure these compliances, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) Environmental compliance with respect to various environmental approvals and obligations, including those pertaining to coal mining projects, falls under the purview of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). All the coal mines have been mandated to secure prior Environmental Clearance from MoEF&CC/SEIAA and consent from respective State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs), which stipulate standards and measures to curb air pollution.

The Government has notified the Environment Audit Rules, 2025 to further strengthen the environmental compliance framework for projects operating under various environmental laws, including coal mines. These Rules establish a structured mechanism for systematic environmental audits through Registered Environment Auditors to verify adherence to environmental safeguards, assess emissions and waste-management systems, and report any violations. This audit mechanism supplements the existing monitoring undertaken by the Central and State Pollution Control Boards. The Rules also provide for the issuance of guidelines, directions, and oversight by a Steering Committee chaired by MoEF&CC to ensure effective implementation of environmental audits, including those applicable to coal mining projects.

(b) Coordination meetings are conducted with coal companies involving the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) to ensure environmental compliances in coal mining projects. Workshops are also being organized involving various stakeholders for capacity building and strengthening the compliance mechanism and promoting advance measures towards environmental and sustainable practices.
