

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 64
ANSWERED ON- 01.12.2025

CLOSURE OF COAL MINES

64. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) initiatives taken by the Government to address the issue of abandoned and closed coal mines;
- (b) whether there has been slow pace of mine closure;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) number of non-operational mines identified for closure so far and the number out of them applied for formal closure?

ANSWER

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

(a): On 28.10.2022, the Ministry of Coal had issued Guidelines for Management of Mines Discontinued/ Abandoned/ Closed before 2009. Subsequently, on 31.01.2025, the Guidelines for Preparation of Mining Plan and Mine Closure Plan for Coal and Lignite Blocks 2025 were issued. These guidelines aim to:

- Promote responsible mining practices that support coal and lignite industry and the broader ecosystem. Mandatory incorporation of restoration, remediation, and regeneration measures into mining plans to ensure responsible and sustainable management of natural resources.
- Obligate mine owners to carry out the mining operations within the allocated block boundary.
- Prioritise environmental conservation by monitoring soil, groundwater, and vegetation and implementing measures to improve air, soil and water quality.
- Minimise environmental footprint, mitigate adverse impacts on local communities and ecosystems, and contribute to the overall conservation and preservation of natural habitats.
- Optimise the extraction of coal and lignite resources while ensuring sustainable practices that minimize waste generation while maximising efficiency.
- Emphasize the importance of systematic and scientific mining, to promote safety and health, to safeguard the interests of workers and communities involved in coal mining activities, to promote the implementation of robust safety protocols, infrastructure and adoption of global best technologies.

(b) to (d) : A total of 147 abandoned, discontinued, or closed mines have been identified for closure in a time-bound manner. Out of these, 12 mines have been scientifically closed as per approved Mine Closure Plans.
