

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1909
ANSWERED ON 09.03.2026

NON-WORKING MINES CRISIS

1909. SHRI MOHAMMED NADIMUL HAQUE:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 1789 of 2995 major mines remain idle despite auction mandates as stated in the sixteenth report of the standing committee on coal, mines and steel; and
- (b) reasons for failure to activate these despite rural employment potential?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL AND MINES
(SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY)

(a) & (b): There are 1400 non-working major mineral mines in the country. The mines are currently non-working mainly due to non-availability of or non-compliance with statutory clearances, lack of availability of suitable grade mineral, uneconomic operations, court matters/litigation, blocks fall under Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) or notified wildlife/tiger corridors, and other factors such as land acquisition and local issues.
