

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF MINES

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3668

TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD MARCH, 2017

CLOSURE OF MINES

SHRI C.S. PUTTA RAJU:

Will the Minister of **MINES** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of mines sanctioned in the country so far and the number out of them operational at present;
- (b) the number out of them which are under private sector;
- (c) whether all these mines observe safety and environment protection norms and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether some of these have been closed or are facing closure for violating such norms and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER, COAL, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) and (b): As per information provided by Indian Bureau of Mines (a sub-ordinate office of the Ministry of Mines), there are a total of 3874 mines (minerals coming under the purview of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2017) in the country as on 16.03.2017, wherein 1684 mines are working. Out of these working mines, 1552 mines are in the Private Sector.

(c) and (d): No Sir. Indian Bureau of Mines, during inspection of mines in the year 2016-17 (upto 20th February 2017) has pointed out 12 environmental violations. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEFCC**) has noticed 70 violation cases during the appraisal of different projects from November 2015 to February 2017. Action on these cases is being taken as per statutory provisions.

Safety in mines is regulated through the Mines Act, 1952 which is administered by the Ministry of Labour & Employment the provisions of which are enforced by the Directorate General of Mines Safety. The safety norms are being checked for compliance by the Directorate General of Mines Safety through inspections and enquiries made by the officers of the Directorate from time to time.
