

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5486
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2019

Pollution from Mining Activities

5486. SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that pollution from mining activities is causing serious health problems among the people living in adjacent mining areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to end pollution in order to protect the citizens living in such areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is contemplating to bring stringent provisions to prevent the pollution caused by mining activities; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a) & (b) Mining projects can contribute to pollution in nearby areas, and may cause health problems if the approved Environment Management Plans (EMP) are not implemented in letter and spirit.

(c) to (e) The Central Government has issued Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, which mandates the requirement of prior environmental clearance (EC) for all new projects or activities, expansion or modernization of existing projects or activities listed in the Schedule to the Notification. These include mining of minerals/coal, requiring EC from the concerned regulatory authority.

These projects are required to undertake EIA studies to evaluate the impact of mining activities on different environmental components namely air, water, land, socio-economic, etc. and prepare EMPs accordingly. Based on likely impacts, EMPs suggested by the project proponent, are examined for their efficacy and adequacy and finalized to ensure protection of environment and citizens living in adjoining areas.
