

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2338
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2023

Safe Disposal of Lithium-ion Battery

2338. SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:

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

- (a) the details regarding environmental and health hazards involved in the mining of lithium metal;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure sustainable mining practices in the country; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government for the safe disposal of lithium-ion batteries used in mobile, cars and other electronic devices?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change grants Environmental Clearance (EC) based on the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) /Environment Management Plan (EMP) report under the provisions of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 laying conditions with due consideration of sustainable mining practices. Baseline data on ambient air quality, water quality, noise level, soil, flora and fauna and socio-economic data including health status of local people, primary available medical facilities is collected and incorporated in the EIA and EMP Report. Further, Ministry of Mines has the provisions under Chapter-V of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR), 2017 for sustainable mining.

(c) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India has notified the Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022 on 22nd August, 2022 to ensure environmentally sound management of waste batteries. The rules cover all types of batteries regardless of chemistry, shape, volume, weight, material composition and use, viz. Electric Vehicle batteries, portable batteries, automotive batteries and industrial batteries. The rules are based on the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) where the producers (including importers) of batteries have been obligated for collection and recycling/refurbishment of waste batteries. EPR mandates that all waste batteries are to be collected and recycled/refurbished, and it prohibits disposal in landfills and incineration.
