

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2168
ANSWERED ON 04.03.2020

RECLAMATION OF ABANDONED MINES

2168. SHRI ADHIKARI DEEPAK (DEV):

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has evolved any policy in relation to reclamation of abandoned mines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of abandoned mines reclaimed/ rehabilitated during the last three years; and
- (d) the number of mine sites identified for reclamation?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF MINES, COAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) to (d): There are provisions in the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2017 ("MCDR 2017") prescribing procedures for abandonment of mines which inter alia, require carrying out protective, reclamation and rehabilitation work in accordance with the mine closure plan. As per Rule 24 of MCDR 2017, a Final Mine Closure plan is required to be submitted by the lessee to the Competent Authority for approval two years prior to the proposed closure of the mine. The Final Mine Closure Plan envisages type of land use proposed by the lessee after extraction which includes proposals for proper reclamation and rehabilitation of the area affected by mining to be completed within the specified time period.

The mine owner has the responsibility to ensure that the protective measures including reclamation and rehabilitation works have been carried out in accordance with the approved mine closure plan so that the land is restored, to the extent possible in which it was before commencement of the mining operations. After the mine closure, the land can be put to alternate use.
