

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 1790
ANSWERED ON 21.09.2020

RE-GRASSING OF MINED OUT AREAS

1790. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has made re-grassing of mined out areas compulsory and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government to implement the direction of the Supreme Court;
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that miners adhere to re-grassing of mined out areas, including penalties and punishments for failure to comply with the requirements and the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has any similar plans or taken any steps for areas mined out underlying the ocean within the territorial waters or the continental shelf or the exclusive economic zone and other maritime zones of India and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, whether the Government has commissioned any research regarding the possibility of the “re-grassing” of mined out areas underlying oceans and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Yes, Sir. Hon’ble Supreme Court in the matter of WP(C) No. 114/2014- Common Cause Vs. Union of India vide its judgment dated 08.01.2020 has directed Government of India to impose a condition in the mining lease and a similar condition in the environmental clearance and the mining plan to the effect that the mining lease holders shall, after ceasing mining operations, undertake re-grassing the mining area and any other area which may have been disturbed due to their mining activities and restore the land to a condition which is fit for growth of forest, flora, fauna etc.
- (b) The Ministry of Mines in compliance of the direction of Hon’ble Supreme Court issued direction under Section 20A of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to all State Governments including Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Indian Bureau of Mines (A Subordinate Office of Ministry of Mines) for its compliance through Order No. 11/2/2020-M.VI dated 14.01.2020.
- (c) Rule 23 to 27 of Mineral Conservation Development Rules (MCDR), 2017 emphasize upon the responsibility of every lease holder to ensure protective measures including Reclamation and Rehabilitation (R&R) as per approved Mine Closure Plan. The R&R measure proposals are approved as a part of mining plan and financial assurance is furnished for proposed mined out area at prescribed rates. The financial assurance furnished can be forfeited, in case of non-compliance of the approved R&R proposals including re-grassing. Further, rule 62 of MCDR, 2017 prescribes penalty provisions for contravening the provisions of the said rules.
- (d) No, Sir. As per information available with Government of India there is no such plan.
- (e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.
