

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1460
ANSWERED ON 10.02.2021

INNOVATION IN MINING

1460. DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has supported any startup company to innovate mechanisms for the benefit of mining companies and the miners like drones, wireless communication, survival chambers, robotics and mine safety services; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the safety mechanisms prescribed by the Government to the mining companies during the past six years?

ANSWER

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

(a): The Ministry of Mines has requested the State Governments to utilize drone technology for regulation and monitoring of mining as per guidelines of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). State Governments have also been requested to collaborate with State Remote Sensing Center or the Regional Remote Sensing Center or any such agency for utilizing their services for this purpose. However, the regulation and monitoring of mining activities comes under the domain of State Governments. So far the Ministry of Mines has not received any proposal for supporting any startup company to implement any innovative mechanism for the benefit of mining companies and miners.

(b): The safety mechanism for mines are prescribed by the Directorate General of Mines Safety under Ministry of Labour and Employment. Occupational Safety and Health of persons employed in the mines is ensured by implementing / enforcing the provisions of the Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. The same is achieved through:-

- (i) Legislative measures, such as inspection & enquiries, improvement Notices & Prohibitory Orders.
- (ii) Developmental measures such as standard setting, adopting various recommendations of the International Labour Organization Conventions.
- (iii) Promotional measures such as holding National Conferences on Safety in mines, conducting National Safety Awards (Mines), imparting Vocational Training And Other Training, Observance of Safety Weeks and Safety Campaigns, Holding Rescue Competition, promoting participation of worker in safety management, awareness and information dissemination.
- (iv) Technical measures such as Introduction of Risk Assessment Techniques and preparation of Safety Management Plan aimed at elimination of risks and to ensure safety of workmen, introduction of standard operating procedures to avoid unsafe practices in mines.