

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2359**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2021

**Environmental Impact due to Mining**

2359. MS. DIYA KUMARI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken studies to demarcate areas of severe environmental impact including pollution of groundwater, air and noise pollution from various mining activities, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the measures the Government has taken to mitigate the environmental impact of mining activities on the locals residing near mines and the details thereof;
- (c) whether there exists a compensatory mechanism to protect the locals residing around mines and the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the government plans to introduce a further compensatory mechanisms to protect the locals and disincentivize miners from violating environmental norms, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) has notified the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, as amended from time to time, which deals with the process to grant Environmental Clearance (EC) including mining of minerals. Any likely impacts of the mining activity, including pollution of groundwater, air and noise pollution, are assessed during its EIA & Environmental Management Plan(EMP) studies, which is mandatory for obtaining EC for all significant mining activities. The EC is granted to the project based on the appraisal of such project keeping in view of EIA/EMP studies and various conditions are stipulated therein to address and mitigate the environmental impacts.

(c) & (d) The concerns of local affected persons and others who have plausible stake in the environmental impacts of the project or activity are taken in to account during EIA/EMP process. In the above context, public consultation/public hearing is undertaken for all category A and B1 projects or activity mentioned in schedule of the EIA Notification, 2006 as amended time to time. If any mining activities involves relocation of some population residing within or very near to a proposed mining activity, then it is compensated under the land acquisition law. Accordingly, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Plan including compensation to be paid to the project affected families, is prepared and implemented by the project authorities.

After issuance of EC, half yearly compliance report is required to be submitted by the project authorities to the concerned Regional Offices of the MoEF & CC. Post-Project Clearance, Monitoring report is scrutinized to ensure that environmental norms as laid down in the EC are not violated and appropriate action is contemplated under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for non-compliance of environmental clearance conditions. In cases of major non-compliance, further follow up action is taken for effecting compliance including issue of show cause notice followed by directions under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 on case to case basis.

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