

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *134
ANSWERED ON 31.07.2024

Revival of Closed Mines in Jharkhand

†*134. **Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram:**

Will the Minister of **COAL** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Rajhara Coal Mines located in Palamu district of Jharkhand are lying closed for many years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the said colliery has been permitted many years ago by the Director General of Mines Safety (DGMS) to resume its mining activities except during rainy season and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the mining activities at the said colliery is yet to be resumed as 20 displaced persons have not been provided employment so far;
- (d) if so, the time by which the Central Coal Field Limited (CCL) is likely to resume the mining activities in the said colliery by providing employment to the said displaced persons;
- (e) the number of coal mines across the country lying closed due to one or the other reason despite having enormous coal reserves; and
- (f) the time by which the Government proposes to resume the operations of the said coal mines so as to reduce coal imports and save forex reserves?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 134 ANSWERED ON 31.07.2024 ASKED BY SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM, HON'BLE MP REGARDING 'REVIVAL OF CLOSED MINES IN JHARKHAND'.

(a) & (b): Considering the imminent danger of inundation, a Prohibition Order under Section 22(3) of Mines Act, 1952 for prohibiting the employment of people was imposed on 10.11.2010 by the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) to the Rajhara Coal Mines located in Palamu district of Jharkhand. Accordingly, this coal mine was closed. On submission of partial compliance by the mine management, the said Prohibitory Order was later partially vacated on 08.04.2015 to carry out work except rainy season i.e. from 15th June to 31st October and other periods of heavy rains.

(c) & (d): Mining activities at Rajhara Colliery resumed on 17.12.2020 with removal of overburden. Provisioning of employment to 20 land owners have been agreed "in principle" by CCL. Land owners have been asked to submit applications for employment along with all required documents duly authenticated/verified by State Authorities.

(e) & (f): CIL has 305 closed/abandoned /discontinued mines, out of which, 174 mines have been identified for operationalization after obtaining necessary approvals, permissions and clearances, 109 mines have been identified for final closure, 6 mines have been identified for UG coal gasification projects and 16 mines have been identified for preparation of temporarily mine closure plan.

Further, SCCL has informed that no mine in SCCL is lying closed or left with enormous coal reserves and most of the underground mines closed in SCCL are converted into opencast to enhance production.
