

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 437**  
ANSWERED ON 24.07.2024

**MINING AFFECTED AREAS IN DIMA HASAO, ASSAM**

437. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the Government's response to grievances from mining-affected areas in Dima Hasao, Assam, concerning proposed new mining projects in Umrongso and the Garampani Coal Mine Project, as well as issues related to environmental damage and displacement caused by existing industrial projects;
- (b) the details of measures taken to address grievances submitted by local associations regarding new mining projects;
- (c) the steps being taken to mitigate environmental damage caused by existing industrial and mining projects in Umrongso;
- (d) whether provisions are being made to compensate local communities forced to relocate due to mining activities and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government is planning to initiate skill development programmes to ensure job opportunities for residents affected by mining activities and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): As per the information provided by the Pollution Control Board, Government of Assam, it has not received any grievance regarding environmental damage caused by existing industrial projects in Dima Hasao, Assam.

(c): As per existing law, before execution of the mining lease, every mine is required to obtain the requisite statutory clearances from various departments of the Central Government and respective State Governments, including Environmental Clearance. As part of grant of Environmental Clearance, the project proponents carry out Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and submit the Environment Management Plan (EMP) based

on scientific study by taking into consideration of likely the impact of project activity on the baseline environment. The mining lease holders are also required to implement the environmental mitigation measures as approved during grant of Environmental Clearance. Further, the miners are required to obtain the consent of land owners before commencement of the mining operations. Further, Section 24A of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 [MMDR Act, 1957] prescribes that the concession holders are liable to pay compensation to the occupier of the surface of the land, for any loss or damage which is likely to arise or has arisen from or in consequence of the reconnaissance, mining or prospecting operations.

(d) & (e): Section 9B of MMDR Act, 1957 empowers State Governments to establish District Mineral Foundation (DMF) to work for the welfare and benefit of persons, and areas affected by mining related operations and make rules for composition and functions of the DMFs in the State. Till May, 2024, Rs. 136.62 Crores have been collected under DMFs in Assam. Out of this, Rs. 124.89 Crores have been allocated and Rs. 93.74 Crores have been spent. The Government of Assam has implemented 27 projects for skill development amounting to Rs. 8.62 Crores through DMF.

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