

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COAL

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3835**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2024**

**Coal Mining in Hasdeo Forest**

**3835. Shri Raja Ram Singh:**

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that coal mining operations in Hasdeo forest do not cause irreversible environmental damage to the region's biodiversity and forest cover;
- (b) the manner in which the Government is addressing the concerns of local indigenous and tribal communities whose land and livelihood are being affected by the coal mining activities in Hasdeo forest;
- (c) the specific environmental safeguards which have been taken to mitigate the impact of coal mining on the wildlife corridors specifically Lemru Elephant Reserve in Hasdeo forest;
- (d) the details of environmental and social impact assessments for ongoing coal mining projects in Hasdeo forest; and
- (e) the manner in which the Government is planning to balance the coal extraction with India's commitment to climate action and forest conservation particularly in Hasdeo forest?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): The Government, through the Ministry of Coal in coordination with MoEF&CC, remains committed to ensuring that all coal mining activities in the Hasdeo forest region are carried out in an environmentally sustainable and socially responsible manner. The Government is taking several measures to ensure that coal mining operations are conducted with minimal environmental impact duly protecting the biodiversity and forest cover. It is mandatory to obtain prior Environmental Clearance for opening any new coal mine and also for expansion coal mining projects having more than 5 Ha of mining lease hold area. It is mandatory to obtain Forestry Clearance for opening any new coal mine, if forest land is involved in the project. Steps are being taken to biologically reclaim the mined out area as per the mining plan, EC & FC permission. During biological reclamation all steps are being taken to grow native plants & shrubs. MoEF&CC & State forest department conducts quarterly inspection of mine reclamation area. Project Proponent submits quarterly/half yearly / Annual returns to MoEF&CC, State Forest Department & Pollution Control Board.

(b): The Government is taking various measures to address the concerns of local people particularly, tribal communities whose land and livelihood are being affected by the coal mining activities. The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (RFCTLARR Act), 2013 is being implemented which aimed at humane, participative, informed and transparent process for land acquisition with the least disturbance to the owners of the land and other affected families. Just and fair compensation is being provided to affected families whose land has been acquired or proposed to be acquired or are affected by such acquisition as per the RFCTLARR Act. The Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA) mandates that the rights of tribal communities must be recognized and safeguarded. Under this law, Gram Sabha consent (village council approval) is required for opening mining projects. Skill development programs are being

conducted to affected families and employment opportunities are provided in mining projects and affiliated industries.

(c): The Government is taking required environmental safeguards to mitigate the impact of coal mining on wildlife corridors, particularly concerning the Lemru Elephant Reserve in the Hasdeo Arand forest of Chhattisgarh. As a part of obtaining Forest Clearance, Wild Life Management Plan (WLMP) is required to be prepared for safeguarding the habitats. Further, all the terms and conditions imposed by MoEF&CC and State Forest department while giving the Forest Clearance for mining in Hasdeo region are being implemented.

(d): Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (EIA and SIA) are conducted for all ongoing coal mining projects in the Hasdeo forest region particularly indigenous tribal populations in collaboration with relevant authorities. Below are the key details regarding these assessments:

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) is the statutory process under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is mandated before the approval of any mining project. It includes the assessment of impact on Air, Water, Soil, Forest Cover and Biodiversity. EIA also includes specific mitigation strategies like dust suppression & water management systems, noise control measures, reforestation plans to counter the environmental impacts of mining activities etc.

In line with the Forest Rights Act, 2006, the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) is conducted in consultation with Local Communities to understand and address the effects of coal mining on local communities, especially the indigenous and tribal populations.

The EIA and SIA are reviewed by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) before project approval.

(e): The Government of India, through the Ministry of Coal and in coordination with MoEF&CC, remains committed to ensuring that all coal mining activities including in the Hasdeo forest region, are carried out in an environmentally sustainable manner with a balance between coal extraction and climate/forest conservation commitments.

(i) For opening new mine or for Expansion Projects, prior Environmental Clearance (EC) is secured from Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) under Environment (Protection) Act & Rules, 1986 and EIA Notification, 2006 and subsequent amendments. The mines are operated complying with the EC conditions thereby ensuring environment sustainability.

(ii) In compliance of the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, prior Forestry Clearance is also secured from MoEF&CC, in case of projects involving forest land.

(iii) After receipt of EC, Consent to Establish (CTE) and Consent to Operate (CTO) are also secured from respective State Pollution Control Board under Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

(iv) In compliance of EC, FC and Consent conditions, various pollution control measures and environment sustainability measures are undertaken which are regularly monitored and strengthened.

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