

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2184
ANSWERED ON 12.03.2025

REGULATION OF MINING ACTIVITIES IN ODISHA

2184. SHRI SUKANTA KUMAR PANIGRAHI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the steps undertaken by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) to monitor and regulate mining operations in view of the significant mining activities in Odisha to ensure compliance with environmental standards and sustainable extraction practices;
- (b) the details of specific actions taken by IBM, such as inspections, audits or collaborations with local authorities or the State Government to address environmental and regulatory concerns in Odisha's mining sector;
- (c) the details of measurable outcomes or improvements that have been observed in the mining sector in Odisha as a result of these actions; and
- (d) whether the IBM has conducted any recent assessments or audits to evaluate the effectiveness of its regulations and the state of environmental protection in Odisha's mining areas and if so, the key findings thereof along with the steps taken to address the issues identified?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): As per the provisions of Section 18 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, the Central Government is empowered to make rules *inter-alia* for the conservation and systematic development of minerals in India. Accordingly, the Central Government has framed the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 2017 (MCDR 2017). Under the provisions of MCDR 2017, IBM is authorized to monitor and regulate mining activities in lease areas through inspections.

The details of inspections undertaken by Indian Bureau of Mines in the last two years in the State of Odisha is given below:

S No	Year	No. of inspections carried out
1	2022-23	132
2	2023-24	145

The standards and permissible limits of all pollutants, toxins and noise are notified by the concerned authorities under the provisions of the relevant laws for the time being in force. The lease holders are mandated to comply with the prescribed norms notified by relevant authorities.

As part of grant of Environmental Clearance, the prospective lessees 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. The compliance of the various environmental parameters by the lease holders is monitored and enforced by the respective State Pollution Control Boards.

The details of the violations of the provisions of the MCDR pointed out by IBM and the status of compliance thereof during the last two years in Odisha is given below:

S No	Year	No. of mines where violations were pointed out	No. of mines which complied with violations	No. of mines where show cause notice was issued	No. of mines where violations were complied with after show cause notice
1	2022-23	64	54	10	10
2	2023-24	70*	51	18	18

* One mining lease was suspended and revoked.

Due to the effective monitoring by IBM, all the violations of the provisions of MCDR 2017 during 2022-23 and 2023-24 were resolved.
