

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4296**  
ANSWERED ON 26.03.2025

**FUNCTIONALITY OF NON WORKING QUARTZ MINES**

4296. SMT. MALVIKA DEVI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken to ensure the functionality of non working quartz mines and semiprecious stone mines in Kalahandi and the functionality of non working granite mines in Nuapada;
- (b) the steps being taken to ensure the safety of mine workers especially with regards to safe handling of explosives during blasting operations in mines; and
- (c) the steps being taken to tackle the issue of illegal sand mining and the illegal transportation of manganese ore in Odisha?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): As per the information received from the Government of Odisha, there are thirteen non-working mines of quartz and semi-precious stones in Kalahandi district of Odisha. These mines are non-working for want of statutory clearances. Further, there is no granite mine in Nuapada district of Odisha.

(b): The Mines Act, 1952 has been enacted to ensure occupational safety & health of mine workers. Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) has been entrusted the task of inspection of mines to ensure the compliance of the provisions of Mines Act, 1952 and Rules and Regulations framed thereunder for enhancing the safety and welfare of mine workers. As per the information received from Government of Odisha, appropriate safety measures / precautions are ensured in the mines during blasting and situation is closely supervised by the Mining Field Officers.

(c): As per Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, the State Governments are empowered to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals.

As per the information received from the Government of Odisha, insofar as minor minerals including sand are concerned, all sources are being mapped on i4MS (Integrated Minor Mineral Mine and Management System) and e-transit permit is issued for transportation. Further, all sources are being taken up for Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) survey and the area of operation is being identified by pillar posting. District Level Task Force Committee, Sub-Divisional Level Task Force Committees and Tehsil Level Enforcement Squads have been constituted to prevent illegal sand mining and regular raids are conducted in the whole district to check illegal transportation.

Further, robust steps have been put in place for curbing illegal transport of the major minerals including manganese ore. State Government has constituted State Level Enforcement Squad and District Level Task Force to keep track of the illegal lifting and transport. All activities are being monitored through i3MS (Integrated Mines & Minerals Management System).

\*\*\*\*\*