

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4333
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2025**

Coal Block Allocation Contracts

†4333. **SHRI BHARAT SINGH KUSHWAH:**

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the terms and conditions under which contracts are signed with a company for the entire period from coal mine blocks allocation in the public interest and environmental concerns;
- (b) the environment protection measures taken in closed coal-mines in Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh which were being operated by the Western Coalfield Company;
- (c) the steps taken by the company for filling up the pits of open cast mines;
- (d) the number of trees planted and the funds spent on maintenance of such trees in closed mines during the last five years; and
- (e) the number and total area of such closed coal mines on which the works of plantation and levelling has been undertaken?

ANSWER

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

(a) Pursuant to a transparent auction process conducted in accordance with the Act, the Rules, and the approved Tender Document, the Successful Bidder is entitled to enter into Coal Mine Development and Production Agreement (CMDPA) regarding the allocation of a Coal Mine. CMDPA outlines the terms and conditions binding the Successful Bidder for the development and operation of the coal mine. These terms cover the allocation of the coal mine, post-vesting obligations, including the bidder's compliance with environmental, safety, and labor standards. The agreement mandates the use of sustainable, mechanized operations, and obligates the bidder to adhere to detailed work programs and production schedules. Additionally, it includes provisions for contractor management, insurance, government inspections, and dispute resolution.

CMDPA ensures that the Successful Bidder complies with regulatory requirements, operational standards, and contractual obligations to develop and operate the coal block in an efficient and responsible manner.

(b) In Chhindwara District of Madhya Pradesh, there are 13 no. of coal mines of Western Coalfield Limited (WCL) that have been abandoned post 2009. Since coal mining activities

have ceased, there is no pollution resulting from these mines. All the aforementioned mines have approved Mine Closure Plans (MCP) and Environmental Clearances (EC).

After mining activities are discontinued, the inclines are sealed, the industrial infrastructure, including office buildings, are dismantled, and the area is levelled & provided with landscaping / plantation.

As per the approved MCPs & EC conditions, the mines undergo technical and biological reclamation, primarily through plantation activities. Post-closure environmental monitoring is conducted for a period of three years. Once reclamation and monitoring activities are completed, third-party audits by agencies like CSIR-NEERI and IEST Shibpur are conducted to certify that the reclamation works are as per the approved Mine Closure Plans.

Additionally, Final Mine Closure Plans for 20 Nos of pre-2009 mines have been approved in FY 2023-24 in accordance with the Ministry of Coal (MoC) guidelines issued in 2022. Further, Post-closure monitoring of environmental parameters (Air, water and soil) is being conducted for three years.

Apart from regular plantation activities, the reclaimed land of the abandoned mines is also proposed for repurposing activities such as eco-parks, walking trails, development of fisheries, Amrit Sarovar and Pumped hydro storage projects

(c) The mine voids of open-cast mines are either back-filled with Over Burden or developed as a water body as per the EC Conditions/EMP.

(d) The number of plantations and funds spend on plantation activities in abandoned mines of Chhindwara District during last five years :

| SL. No. | Financial Year | Plants Planted (Nos) | Expenditure (INR) |
|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 2024-25 (till Feb'25) | 105000 | 2,25,02,836.00 |
| 2 | 2023-24 | NIL | NIL |
| 3 | 2022-23 | 2500 | 1,32,750.00 |
| 4 | 2021-22 | 2430 | 87,000.00 |
| 5 | 2020-21 | NIL | NIL |

(e) Plantation works have been carried out in 4 number of mines in an area of 31.97 Ha during the last five years.
