

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2525
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2025

Air Pollution near Mining Areas

2525. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken steps to reduce the level of pollution in the cities located near source of mining activities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any programme with cooperation of the State Governments to control the air pollution is likely to be proposed by the Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (d): National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was launched by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in January 2019 with an aim to improve air quality in 130 cities (non-attainment cities and Million- Plus Cities in 24 States/UTs through implementation of National, State and City level clean air action plans. Performance linked grant of ₹ 13,036.52 crore has been provided to 130 cities as a critical gap funding to implement air pollution mitigation measures, during 2019-20 till date.

Several cities under NCAP, such as Dhanbad, Jamshedpur, Ranchi, Korba, Raipur, Angul, Talcher, Rourkela, Chandrapur, etc. are associated with significant mining activities. These cities have accordingly prepared city specific Clean Air Action Plans to mitigate air pollution arising from mining activities.

MoEFCC Regional Offices monitor the pollution control measures implemented by mining activities to verify the compliance of conditions specified under Environment Clearance granted under Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006.

Further, concerned State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees monitor the pollution control measures undertaken by mining operations through the Consent Mechanism under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

In addition, all 17 categories of high pollution potential industries (including industries associated with mining operations) have been directed to install Online Continuous Effluent/

Emission Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) for strengthening monitoring mechanism and effective compliance through self-regulatory mechanism and constant vigil on pollution levels.

The Government has made it mandatory to obtain Environmental Clearance (EC) before commencement of Coal Mining, Sponge Iron Plant and Steel Plant under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)/ State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA).

MoEFCC has prescribed air quality standards for coal mines and iron ore mining industries under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986. Further, Guidelines for coal handling and crushing plant have been issued for preventing and controlling air pollution from handling of coal and raw materials. These standards are implemented by mining industries and enforced by concerned State Pollution Control Boards.

Three industrial polluted areas including mining activities have been identified in Odisha. An action plan for abatement of pollution in this area have been prepared by SPCB, Odisha , which also covers air quality measures in cities and town located in such industrial area.

In Maharashtra, to control air pollution caused by coal mines near Chandrapur city, water sprinklers have been installed and are operated regularly along roadsides, at coal handling facilities, and within mining areas.

In Jharkhand, Dhanbad Nagar Nigam has intensified regulatory oversight on mining unit to ensure adherence of environmental standards. In this regard, advisories have been issued by Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board and consultative meetings were held with mining industries to promote awareness and accountability to ensure compliance with air pollution control norms. Regular water sprinkling and mechanical sweeping activities have been undertaken to control pollution from road dust. Further, paving and black topping of roads, greening of open areas and vertical gardens have been developed in Dhandbad city.
