

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. †485
ANSWERED ON 23.07.2025

IMPACT OF MINING ON ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

†485. DR. MANNA LAL RAWAT:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognisance of the adverse impact on local environment due to failure of M/s Hindustan Zinc Limited to comply with the Government norms during the mining operations in Udaipur district of Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any special action plan has been prepared by the Government to address the health related problem of the local residents due to mining operations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Government for the companies engaged in mining operations; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The Government of India has enacted the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR), 2017, which place a clear responsibility on the lease holder to conduct mining operations in a sustainable manner, ensuring the protection of the environment, including local flora and fauna. Additionally, under the Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydro Carbons Energy Minerals) Concession Rules, 2016—which outline the “Rights and Obligations” of lease holders—it is mandated that the lease holder shall, at their own expense, undertake environmental protection measures. These include activities such as afforestation, reclamation of mined land, installation of pollution control devices, and other measures as may be prescribed by the Central or State Government from time to time. Accordingly, these requirements are also incorporated as binding conditions within the lease deed.

The units of M/s Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) are also regularly inspected by designated authorities, and no adverse impact on the local environment in and around its operational areas has been established till date owing to the mining operations by HZL in Udaipur district of Rajasthan.

(c) & (d) Through the amendment in Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) (MMDR) Act, in 2015, Government of India has made provision for establishment of District Mineral Foundation (DMF) in all the districts affected by mining. So far, DMFs have been set up in 646 districts in 23 States in the country.

The Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) provides implementation framework for schemes to be undertaken for welfare and development of mining affected areas and people through the funds collected under DMFs. Under PMKKKY, Rs 9237.45 Cr has been sanctioned for 22592 number of health related projects, till 31.05.2025.

(e) & (f): The National Mineral Policy (NMP) 2019 focuses on sustainable and transparent mining practices and emphasizes environmentally sound mining. The National Mineral Policy (NMP) 2019 aims to revamp the regulatory framework for the mining sector, promoting sustainable practices. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) is the primary legislation governing the development and regulation of mines and minerals in India. The NMP 2019 and the MMDR Act work in tandem to ensure responsible and efficient mineral resource management.
